THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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**A traveller passes WestJet flight attendants picketing at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, B.C., on Sunday. Talks between the airline and the union broke down late Saturday over the issue of wages and ground pay.** ETHAN CAIRNS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# WestJet strike causes chaos at airports on holiday weekend

## Travellers scramble to salvage plans after 4,400 flight attendants walk off the job over pay dispute

**OLIVIA GRANDY**
**MATTHEW FRANK**

At Toronto Pearson International Airport on Sunday, Nikita Joseph tried to calm her crying toddler. She rocked a stroller with one hand and checked her phone with her other for updates on her cancelled flight.

The Windsor resident was supposed to fly to Antigua and Barbuda for vacation to meet her three other children, who travelled there with Ms. Joseph's sister last month. "I don't even know how to tell my five-year-old that I'm not coming today," Ms. Joseph said. "She has been anticipating my arrival, and I can't even tell her when I'm coming."

Around her, prospective travellers found themselves in similar situations – sitting on suitcases and frantically refreshing webpages on their phones in hopes of finding alternative flights to avoid the disruptions caused by the first day of WestJet's flight attendant strike.

At 2:01 a.m. EST on Sunday, the airline and Canadian Union of Public Employees 8125, the local that represents WestJet's 4,400 flight attendants, announced the labour action after the strike deadline passed.

More than 600 flights had been cancelled as of midday Sunday as workers walked off the job, creating chaos and frustration at airports across the country.

Talks between the airline and the union broke down late Saturday over the issue of wages and ground pay, which is the amount flight attendants are paid for the work they perform before a plane departs and after it lands. CUPE says WestJet flight attendants work up to 35 hours a month for free because they do not earn ground pay.

After the strike notice, WestJet released the details of its latest contract proposal, which offered flight attendants a new "duty pay premium" (a salary increase of 12 per cent), designed to address the union's assertion of unpaid work, as well as annual wage hikes. CUPE 8125 president Alia Hussain said in a news release that the airline's offer did not go far enough.

At a Sunday morning news conference, CUPE recording secretary Cameron Jones said talks had resumed.

"The bargaining committee is trying to close that gap to get a deal that we believe is fair that we can bring back to the membership so we can go back to the work that we love," he said at the picket line outside Calgary International Airport.

Last summer, Air Canada flight attendants went on strike over the same issue, resulting in hundreds of cancelled flights and days of delays. The flight attendants, also represented by CUPE, defied a back-to-work order issued by the government shortly after the strike began, and chose to strike unlawfully in order to compel Air Canada to come back to the bargaining table. The strike ended after three days, and a tentative agreement that includes four years of wage increases and partial ground pay provisions was later rejected by union members, but enforced by an arbitrator.

In a scene that evoked déjà vu, 200 union members walked picket lines outside Terminal 3 at Toronto Pearson International Airport on Sunday.

WESTJET, A15

# As remote areas work to fill gaps in dental care, an old model shows promise

**TAVIA GRANT**

Jim Tennant was a dentist working in remote and Northern communities in the 1970s when the Canadian government launched an innovation that changed his workload – for the better.

"It was absolutely fantastic," he said of the program, which trained dental therapists, who provide a larger range of services than hygienists but fewer than dentists, to work in regions that didn't usually have much access to dental care. And then in 2011, the program, which had been funded by the federal government, was shelved. But what is old may be new again.

In recent months, The Globe and Mail has documented a breakdown in dental care delivery in the Northwest Territories, where some communities haven't had a dentist visit in more than six years.

While governments work to resume routine dental care in remote communities, dental therapy is once again being eyed as part of the solution.

The University of Saskatchewan relaunched a dental-therapy training program as a bachelor of science in 2023. In November, Health Canada said it is giving $3.1-million to expand that program into the NWT.

It's still on a small scale, but experts say the efforts could be ramped up to meet growing demand in underserved communities. They are looking to results in places outside of Canada such as Alaska, where dental therapy is now well established, for inspiration.

Dental therapists, once known as dental nurses, work in schools and community settings as well as in clinics. While dentists can perform root canals, crowns and implants, dental therapists provide services such as fillings, routine checkups and simple extractions. They also work on prevention, such as by teaching brushing and flossing techniques.

The profession was established in New Zealand more than a century ago.

DENTAL, A15

# What's the point? Puffins' curious, colourful beaks are still stumping scientists

**MARCUS GEE** ST. JOHN'S

If you browse the tourist traps on Water Street, the historic main drag of St. John's, you can't avoid the puffins. Puffins on coffee cups, aprons and shot glasses; puffins on postcards, calendars, beer coasters and stickers; puffin stuffed toys, puffin key chains, puffin bottle openers, puffin walking sticks.

Everyone loves a puffin. Newfoundland and Labrador's official bird is famously cute. People come from all over to see them in their coastal colonies.

In summertime, the birds put on an unforgettable show: strutting unsteadily around the clifftops like butlers after too many brandies; wheeling through the air, their stubby wings going at up to 400 times a minute; flapping their way along the water's surface like hurried rush-hour commuters.

A Memorial University professor who studies them, Ian Jones, says they look like something Salvador Dali might have come up with if asked to paint a bird. There is that white, Marcel Marceau face, with its dark, sweepy eyebrows, those bright orange webbed feet and, above all, that crazy beak, a multicoloured marvel with bands of yellow, orangey red and bluish grey.

**A puffin flies above the water at a seabird sanctuary near Mobile, N.L. The province's official bird is famous for its unusual appearance.** GREG LOCKE/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The beak takes on those vivid hues when the birds return from the open sea to the coast of Newfoundland every year to breed. The question that fascinates Prof. Jones is why. "It is still one of the great mysteries, why these animals look the way they do," he says.

Most seabirds are white, black, grey or some combination of those. Their bills might feature an orange dot or a black ring, but nothing like the puffin's, which stands out for its almost tropical appearance. Despite decades of research, ornithologists are still trying to find a reason.

Naturally, they have some theories. On a drive down Newfoundland's southeast coast to show a visitor a huge puffin colony, Prof. Jones lays out a few of them.

Prof. Jones grew up in Ottawa. An awkward, long-haired teenager who didn't fit in at school, he started watching birds as an escape.

PUFFINS, A8

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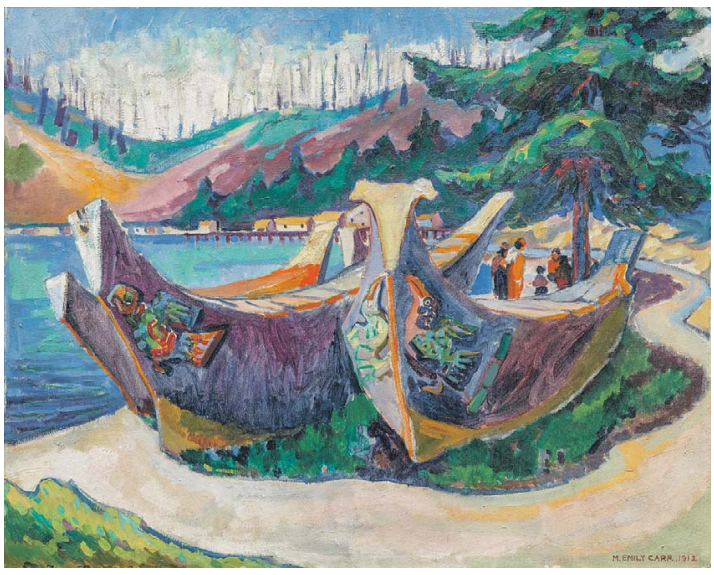
## MADE IN CANADA

EMILY CARR'S WAR CANOES, ALERT BAY



EMILY CARR, WAR CANOES, ALERT BAY, 1912, OIL ON CANVAS, FRAMED: 83.98 × 101.44 CM., AUDAIN ART MUSEUM COLLECTION. GIFT OF MICHAEL AUDAIN AND YOSHIKO KARASAWA

*Located in Whistler, B.C., the Audain Art Museum was founded through a philanthropic gift from Michael Audain and Yoshiko Karasawa. One of Canada's newer museums, it opened to the public in 2016. The museum's permanent collection features more than 300 works representing the art of British Columbia. Special exhibitions throughout the year feature artists of national and international significance. www.audainartmuseum.com*

Emily Carr is B.C.'s most notable painter of the 20th century, and the Audain Art Museum's collection of her work is among the best in the world. This oil on canvas of a Kwakwaka'wakw war canoe on the shore of Alert Bay, near Vancouver Island, is a pivotal painting in her oeuvre. It reveals how the Victoria-based artist's style changed after a critical trip to France in 1910 to 1911, as she adopted a high-key palette and loose brushwork indicative of the Fauve movement's influence. Carr was chastised for such a radical departure from the staid British painting traditions that dominated Canadian art during the early 1900s.

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The Globe and Mail is committed to maintaining the highest ethical, legal and editorial standards.
**SANDRA E. MARTIN**, STANDARDS EDITOR, standardseditor@globeandmail.com

# Hundreds of thousands line Amsterdam canals for the city's annual Pride boat parade

**MIKE CORDER** AMSTERDAM

**People celebrate atop a boat on one of the Dutch capital's historic canals on Saturday during the canal boat parade, a popular highlight of the Pride Amsterdam festival.** PATRICK POST/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of thousands of people lined Amsterdam's canals on Saturday to watch the city's canal boat parade, the highlight of an annual Pride festival that this year comes just a week after a deadly attack on a Pride event in Berlin.

Openly gay Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, dressed in a white shirt, black life vest and gold necklace, waved to crowds as he sailed in a small boat through the colourfully decorated parade of 80 vessels, waving to participants and spectators as techno music pumped from speakers along the route.

The colourful floating parade came a week after the Berlin attack left one person dead and 29 injured. A suspect, Abdul Ballout, was suspected of driving a van into a crowd near the festival Saturday night before apparently stabbing others with a machete in what authorities believe was an Islamic extremist attack. Mr. Ballout was shot and killed by police during a confrontation on Sunday in a suburb of the city, authorities said.

Mr. Jetten, the first Dutch prime minister to ever take part in the boat parade, said in a video posted on X that the event was more important than ever because worldwide the freedom and security of the LGBTQ+ community "is under pressure with new discriminatory legislation, lack of safety on the street or last week's terrible attack in Berlin."

Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema said in the aftermath of the German attack that authorities in the city would "where necessary take extra measures that visitors will hopefully notice as little as possible."

Motorboats carrying police officers cruised the canals and a helicopter hovered overhead as Saturday's parade got under way.

The Berlin attack also cast a shadow Saturday over Hamburg's Pride parade, one of Germany's biggest, where increased security was noticeable as dozens of trucks made their way through Germany's second-biggest city.

Police and organizers said about 300,000 attended, compared with about 260,000 people last year, German news agency dpa reported. Hamburg's police chief said earlier this week that roughly twice as many officers as last year would protect the event.

The boat parade is the traditional highlight of Amsterdam's Pride. This year it coincides with a World Pride celebration that is also being hosted by the Dutch capital.

Rod Lugtenburg, 55, from Toronto, said he came to Amsterdam for World Pride. He stood on the city's famous Skinny Bridge wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a rainbow maple leaf as the boats passed.

"For me, it's about acceptance, being able to be who you are," he said. "I have Dutch heritage, and I have always loved the fact that the Dutch have been leading the way" in acceptance and rights for the LGBTQ+ community. "And Canada is right behind them, so I'm very proud."

The joyful event happened against a backdrop of rising reports of verbal and physical assaults on members of the LGBTQ+ community in the Netherlands, which has long been considered a haven of tolerance.

Boats taking part in the parade included vessels representing the Dutch government ministries, the military and police, as well as LGBTQ+ organizations and clubs.

The Netherlands LGBTQ+ rights group COC, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, had a boat in the parade carrying a manifesto calling for progress in the fight for human rights for LGBTQ+ people in the Netherlands. It also carried a portrait of activist Marsha P. Johnson, who took part in the Stonewall rebellion when patrons at the New York inn of that name resisted a police raid on June 28, 1969. The raid helped usher in a new, militant phase of the movement for gay rights.

Another boat carried two giant inflatable likenesses of U.S. President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. The two figures, dressed in Delft blue and white costumes and each clutching a tulip, leaned toward one another for a kiss, in the style of pottery figurines that are a staple of tourist souvenir stores throughout the Netherlands.

The group that created the boat said on its website that it reimagined the symbol of love and unity "not to provoke, but to pause power for a moment and highlight something human."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Trump says U.S. will stop strikes on Iran

## New proposal calls for reopening Strait of Hormuz, halting attacks across region

**AAMER MADHANI**
**SAMY MAGDY** WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump, centre, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe depart after a cabinet meeting at Camp David on Friday in Thurmont, Md. GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Donald Trump says he will order American forces to hold off on new strikes against Iran, claiming Mideast allies have reached the parameters of a deal to end the five-month old war.

The emerging deal "would include the Immediate, Complete, and Total OPENING OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT, and an end to Iran's nuclear threat," Mr. Trump wrote in a Saturday evening social-media post.

"Based on this request, I have agreed, for the future benefit of the WORLD and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL," Mr. Trump said.

However, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz "will in no way return to the status it was before Feb. 28," the day the war started.

On a call with Iranian state TV, he added that Iran is discussing shipping through the strait with Oman, on the other side of Hormuz, but that there's no current talk about reopening the crucial waterway.

Mr. Trump has announced halts to strikes in Iran on several occasions since the United States and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, only for things to unravel and fighting to resume again.

Iran's defence minister said on X that the country was "neither surprised nor passive" after Mr. Trump's announcement and said Iran continues to remain alert in the face of concrete threats from the U.S.

While Iran's leaders appear united in a war strategy signalling strength and endurance, a struggle for control seems to be brewing within the theocracy's leadership between those who oppose all negotiations with the U.S. and others who count on military pressure to win at the negotiating table.

A regional official says the proposal announced by Mr. Trump over the weekend calls for the U.S. and Iran to return to negotiations and continue working out many of the issues that have stymied prior progress on the deal.

The official, who is involved in the mediation efforts, said the proposal calls for reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and halting attacks across the region, including by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq on the Arab Gulf countries and Jordan.

The U.S., in exchange, will end its naval blockade on Iran and allow Tehran to export its oil as stated in the tentative ceasefire deal, he said.

No deal has been reached yet, but mediation efforts are under way, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media.

Mr. Trump said that Israel is joining his commitment to end the war by implementing the ceasefire deal. Israel did not publicly comment on the announcement.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto leader, spoke with Mr. Trump by phone on Saturday and raised concerns about the U.S. potentially escalating the conflict with Iran, according to the Saudi press agency.

The call was "candid and constructive," according to a person briefed on the call who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

The crown prince conveyed that an escalation in fighting could have severe impact on the global economy if Tehran responded to a new U.S. bombardment by targeting some of the United States' Gulf allies.

The call happened before Mr. Trump's social-media announcement, the person said. The crown prince sought clarity from Mr. Trump on what potential new action he was weighing to take against Iran.

Saudi officials, the person added, have underscored in their engagements with the Trump administration that the kingdom – as well as fellow Persian Gulf energy titans the United Arab Emirates and Qatar – are in a good position to defend against further potential Iranian attacks, but that Kuwait could be made more vulnerable to attacks by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq.

A White House official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity, confirmed the leaders spoke on Saturday but did not offer any further details.

Iran has repeatedly attacked vessels attempting to transit through the Strait of Hormuz without its authorization as part of its ongoing conflict with the U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Poilievre calls for terrorist designation of Iran-backed militant group

OTTAWA

Canada's Conservative leader is calling on Ottawa to designate an Iran-backed militant group as a terrorist entity after one of its members was accused of contributing to an attack on a Canadian synagogue, as well as the March shooting at the U.S. consulate in Toronto.

Pierre Poilievre says in a letter to Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree that American authorities have found that Kata'ib Hezbollah and its alleged commander directed attacks on Canadian soil.

Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood Al-Saadi, an Iraqi man whom U.S. authorities have called a commander of the group, appeared in a Federal Court in Manhattan in May on allegations he plotted at least 18 terror attacks in Europe and North America in retaliation for the U.S. and Israel war with Iran.

Court heard two of those attacks took place in Canada.

Mr. Al-Saadi is also charged with conspiracy to provide material support to Kata'ib Hezbollah and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, both of which have been designated by the U.S. government as foreign terrorist organizations. Mr. Poilievre says Kata'ib Hezbollah needs to be designated as a terrorist entity because Canadians deserve a government that stops terrorists before they attack.

"Listing Kata'ib Hezbollah would make it illegal to knowingly deal in its property or finances, allow authorities to restrain or seize its assets and strengthen Canada's ability to prevent its members from entering or remaining in the country," his letter said.

"Canada should not wait for another synagogue to be shot or another foreign consulate to be attacked before shutting down the terrorist organization allegedly directing these attacks."

The Centre for Israeli and Jewish Affairs issued a statement Sunday welcoming Mr. Poilievre's letter, saying the organization requested the government make this designation in May.

"The warning signs are clear," the Jewish advocacy organization said in its statement.

"It's time to get tough on politically motivated violence and terror."

THE CANADIAN PRESS with files from The Associated Press

Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a vehicle in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday. Since a ceasefire was signed last October, Israel has continued striking Gaza, saying it's targeting the ruling Hamas and its infrastructure. MAHMOUD ISSA/REUTERS

# Israel raises 'serious security concerns' regarding Hamas agreement as strikes on Gaza continue

**SAM MEDNICK** TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Israel has shared "serious security concerns" with the White House regarding the proposed disarmament deal with Hamas, an Israeli official said as Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday evening killed at least 17 people, including children, in Gaza.

The remarks by Doron Spielman, spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, were some of the first public comments since U.S. President Donald Trump announced the agreement.

Mr. Spielman told the Associated Press that Israel's intelligence assessment is that Hamas remains committed to rebuilding its military rather than genuinely demilitarizing. He said the Israeli military would not withdraw from Gaza – where it controls more than 60 per cent of the territory – before Hamas disarms.

"Our assessment is that if we redeploy before Hamas is truly disarmed, it will quickly expand its presence throughout Gaza, rebuild its terrorist infrastructure, once again threaten Israeli communities, and seek to carry out another Oct. 7-style attack," he said, referring to the Hamas militant attack on Israel in 2023 that triggered the war in the Gaza Strip.

"Disarming means physically giving up the weapons. Nothing less," Mr. Spielman said.

His comments come days after Hamas said that it would begin disarming as part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire signed nine months ago to end the nearly three-year-long conflict. It marks a potential breakthrough in ending the conflict, but many hurdles, conditions and long timelines remain.

Mr. Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan calls on the militant group to surrender its weapons and destroy its vast network of tunnels. It also envisions Israeli forces withdrawing from Gaza, the arrival of a new technocratic Palestinian government, deployment of an international security force and the rebuilding of the battered Palestinian enclave.

Hamas disarming has been a sticking point and has deadlocked negotiations for months. In announcing the deal on social media on Thursday, Mr. Trump said it would be carried out in "carefully structured phases." A copy of the agreement obtained and verified by the AP said all weapons held by the Hamas-run police will be transferred to the U.S.-backed Palestinian technocratic committee, known as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, upon its arrival in the enclave.

A process to decommission and store heavy weapons and to dismantle military production sites and tunnels will begin after the arrival of the Palestinian committee and the deployment of international forces.

The areas Israel controls in Gaza have been mostly destroyed and depopulated. Most of the territory's two million Palestinians are in the other part, where hundreds of thousands live in squalid tent camps and destroyed neighbourhoods.

Israel appears unlikely to pull back significant forces or make other concessions ahead of its October elections. Mr. Netanyahu faces a tough re-election battle, with his far-right coalition partners urging him to keep up the pressure on Hamas and leave forces in Gaza, and opponents accusing him of failing to prevent the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Hamas-led militants attacked Israeli communities then, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 others hostage. Israel responded with a punishing military offensive that has killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The ministry, which was part of the recently dissolved Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by UN agencies and international organizations. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants but says women and children make up around half of all fatalities.

While Mr. Spielman said Israel greatly appreciates Mr. Trump's commitment to its security and to finding a durable resolution, the government's position on disarmament is based on detailed intelligence saying that Hamas continues to rearm, recruit fighters, and rebuild its military capabilities. The White House did not provide additional comments on Sunday.

U.S. officials said that Israel had been consulted at every step of the negotiations and was not being asked to do anything more than what it had committed to as part of the ceasefire and hostage release agreement signed last October.

Since the ceasefire was signed last October, Israel has continued striking Gaza, saying it's targeting Hamas and its infrastructure.

Local Gaza hospitals said at least 17 were killed in the latest Israeli strikes, including children. A strike on a residential apartment in southern Gaza killed three family members, including their 4-year-old child, according to Nasser hospital, where the bodies arrived. The Israeli military said the strikes had targeted militant operatives.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sudanese refugees wait to collect water in February in Adre, Chad. With 1.3 million Sundanese sheltering in Chad, the nation's plan to withdraw from the International Criminal Court could complicate the body's efforts to investigate alleged war crimes in Darfur, experts say.** DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

# Trump's anti-ICC push could affect Darfur probe

Neighbouring Chad recently announced plan to withdraw from International Criminal Court after request from U.S. diplomat

**GEOFFREY YORK**
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

The Trump administration's campaign to dismantle the International Criminal Court could weaken any hopes of justice for the victims of mass atrocities in Darfur, analysts say.

The ICC recently reported a breakthrough in its investigation into massacres and other alleged war crimes in the besieged Darfur region of western Sudan, but its probe will face new obstacles if neighbouring Chad goes ahead with its planned withdrawal from the court.

Chad, which shelters 1.3 million Sudanese refugees, including many survivors of the atrocities in Darfur, had been co-operating with the ICC as recently as early July, when the court's deputy prosecutor visited the country. But last week, its government unexpectedly announced its pullout from the court.

The announcement was made just days after it disclosed that a senior U.S. diplomat had asked it to reconsider its membership in the international court.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaking at a televised cabinet meeting on Friday, said five countries have responded to the U.S. campaign by notifying the court of their intention to withdraw. The five are Chad, Venezuela, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, all of which sent letters to the ICC to announce their pullout last month.

Mr. Rubio said the ICC is "illegitimate" and "arrogant," and the Trump administration is seeking "to bring that court to heel."

President Donald Trump, interrupting Mr. Rubio's comments, said the U.S. campaign is aimed at protecting people such as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is the subject of an ICC arrest warrant for alleged war crimes in Gaza. He said his Secretary of State is "trying to defend Bibi and various other people."

The ICC, based in The Hague, lacks the power to prosecute war crimes within the territory of non-member states such as the United States or Israel, but it has asserted the right to investigate allegations against citizens of those countries if their alleged crimes took place in the territory of member states.

The announced withdrawals will not take effect for a year, but ICC investigations can take several years, and Chad is particularly important as a host country for Darfur refugees, including many potential witnesses in any court case.

"We are indeed concerned about the practical challenges this will pose to ICC investigators," said Yonah Diamond, senior legal counsel at the Montreal-based Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

"The court's ability to effectively fulfill its mandate ultimately depends on the co-operation of state governments," he told The Globe and Mail.

Human-rights advocates, including the Wallenberg Centre, have alleged that the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has committed genocide in Darfur during the war that began three years ago. In one of the most horrific assaults, the RSF killed thousands of civilians in the Darfur city of El Fasher last October. At least 60,000 people were massacred, according to rights groups and researchers who studied satellite imagery.

Mark Kersten, a criminology professor at the University of the Fraser Valley who has written extensively about the International Criminal Court, noted that the court's investigators are unable to enter Darfur because of the continuing warfare in the region.

"The refugee camps in Chad have therefore become a critical place for investigators to speak with victims and witnesses from Darfur," he told The Globe.

"If Chad shuts that off, it will make investigations and maintaining contact with witnesses more difficult."

Mr. Kersten noted that Chad could still choose to allow ICC investigators to work in the country. The Philippines, for example, which quit the court in 2019, continued to co-operate with the body after its withdrawal. But another country that withdrew, Burundi, has completely halted its assistance to the court.

The ICC's deputy prosecutor, Nazhat Shameem Khan, visited Chad in early July and met its Justice Minister, Ndolenodji Alixe Naïmbaye. They had "positive discussions" that reflected Chad's support for the ICC investigation in Darfur, and they agreed to "deepen" the court's co-operation with Chad, according to a statement by the court. Ms. Khan told journalists that the court had achieved a "breakthrough" in its Darfur investigation.

About two weeks later, however, U.S. assistant secretary of state Frank Garcia spoke to Chad's Foreign Minister, Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul, and urged him to reconsider Chad's court membership. On July 27, Chad announced its withdrawal, and the U.S. State Department said it welcomed Chad's decision to "join the growing number of nations reclaiming their sovereignty from this flawed institution."

The court's supporters are worried by the move. "Chad's decision to leave the ICC is a blow to justice for victims of serious international crimes," said Tamara Aburamadan, international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch. "The ICC is a critical court of last resort for those victims around the world."

In its official notification to the court last week, Chad complained that most of the ICC's investigations have targeted African suspects, creating the impression that the court "is being used for political purposes."

The court's defenders, however, have noted that most of the African investigations were a result of requests from African governments themselves.

A decade ago, many African governments – including South Africa – accused the ICC of bias and threatened to quit the court. But most eventually chose to stay, and South Africa later became a supporter, urging the court to take action on Gaza.

# Ukrainian drone attacks kill at least 8 in Russia

Ukrainian drone strikes killed at least eight people in Russian regions overnight Saturday and on Sunday, hitting targets including a warehouse belonging to Wildberries, Russia's largest online retailer, regional officials said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it downed 635 Ukrainian drones during the night.

The acting governor of Russia's border region of Belgorod, Alexander Shuvayev, said a Ukrainian drone struck an area next to a playground, killing one child and injuring two.

Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's commissioner for children's rights, was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying that the strike was "another inhumane terrorist act" by Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ukraine's drones attacked a Wildberries warehouse in the Samara region, around 800 kilometres from Ukraine's most advanced military positions, Samara Governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said. Mr. Fedorishchev said there were no casualties.

Ukrainian forces have been hitting deeper inside Russia as they expand strikes on economic and energy targets, aiming to undermine Russia's ability to wage its more than four-year-old war in Ukraine. They have attacked about a dozen Wildberries sites since July 18 in an attempt to disrupt the operations of the company, a linchpin of the consumer economy often described as Russia's version of Amazon.

A strike on a residential building in the neighbouring Saratov region killed two people in the city of Engels, Governor Roman Busargin said. Civil infrastructure was damaged both in Engels and in the city of Saratov, Mr. Busargin said. Both Saratov city, home to a major oil refinery, and Engels, home to a military airbase, have come under repeated Ukrainian attack in recent years.

Ukraine's military said on Sunday that Ukrainian forces attacked the Saratov refinery and the Engels airbase, sparking fires at both facilities. It said its forces also struck an oil depot in the western Kaluga region.

Three people were killed and two injured in a drone attack on the Udmurtia region of Russia, acting governor Olga Abramova said. In the border region of Belgorod, three people were killed and five injured in Ukrainian strikes, the local task force reported.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces struck infrastructure and two vessels with military cargo in the Ukrainian port of Mykolaiv, as well as a vessel carrying military supplies in the Black Sea.

In the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, regional governor Ivan Fedorov said Russian-launched glide bombs killed one person and injured 21.

REUTERS

# Canada's diplomats have been dispatched on a new mission

**CAMPBELL CLARK**

OPINION

Prime Minister Mark Carney had a message for the Canadian ambassadors who had trooped home to Ottawa from around the world: Be bold and move fast.

At a closed-door session in May, he told the heads of Canada's diplomatic missions that his government has a higher tolerance for risk than their previous political masters.

It was a pep talk, but it was also intended to set Canadian diplomats on a new mission.

Commercial interests are now the dominant priority – raising criticism from stalwarts of Canada's past diplomatic traditions. In a world of geopolitical shifts and U.S. trade wars, it is no secret that diversifying trade and attracting investment top the government agenda, and now diplomats are told to talk to their counterparts about supply chains.

And it is defence and security, notably in the Arctic, that come second.

In January, Mr. Carney famously delivered a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos that described a new world with domineering hegemonic powers – the United States and China – "using economic integration as weapons." Middle powers, he warned, should work together to build autonomy, "because if you are not at the table, you are on the menu."

In May, at the diplomats' retreat, Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand told the envoys from around the world to "bring this middle-power strategy to life."

Yet Mr. Carney's Davos speech had raised questions at home and abroad about what it means in practice.

"What does it tangibly mean for those [diplomats] when they go back to their missions?" Ms. Anand said in an interview in her Ottawa office last week.

"It means that they have to ensure that Canadian commercial interests in the jurisdiction are being fortified and addressed through diplomatic channels. That's the definition."

In her own recent visit to Pakistan, Ms. Anand said, she asked the Pakistani government to assist in "unlocking" permits for a Canadian company, JCM Power, investing in clean-energy projects there. She asked Mexican Foreign Minister Roberto Velasco Álvarez for help with permit issues of Canadian mining companies when he visited Ottawa in mid-July, she said.

Canadian diplomats have worked on commercial issues before, of course – yet it has rarely been set as their driving mission.

Peacekeeping, United Nations multilateralism, Brian Mulroney's opposition to apartheid, and the human security agenda led by Jean Chrétien's foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy in the 1990s are often touted as the vaunted tradition of Canadian foreign policy.

Stephen Harper's Conservative government took flak in 2012 when it outlined a trade-first agenda that met resistance from some diplomats. Justin Trudeau's government promised a return to tradition, but its feminist foreign policy didn't make an indelible mark.

Ms. Anand said the foreign service is adapting now.

"They acknowledge that this mission is 180 degrees different from what they have historically been doing, but they also are rising to the challenge," she said. "Did it happen automatically? No, but has it occurred? Yes. Why? Because the urgency of the matter is clear."

The urgency, in the government's eyes, comes from the "rupture" in global economics and geopolitics Mr. Carney described in Davos, creating a need for middle powers to build new networks that make them less vulnerable.

Ms. Anand said other countries don't necessarily adopt identical reasoning, but most share similar concerns. They want secure access to critical minerals or more diverse supply chains. "We're not in meetings talking about global hegemons," she said.

It is not all trade alone. Mr. Carney has identified Arctic security as key, and Ms. Anand cites it as her second priority – behind commercial interests.

Under Mr. Carney, Canada's diplomacy isn't about reviving multilateral institutions such as the UN and World Trade Organization, said Carleton University professor Fen Hampson. It's more transactional. Mr. Carney joined with European leaders on Ukraine and Middle East policy and promotes a bridge agreement between the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries and the European Union.

Mr. Carney has said his Davos speech wasn't intended to suggest a middle-power alliance, but building various networks. In May, he told the heads of missions that is a way to move fast to get things done.

Differences in one area are now to be delinked from others. In a visit to Saudi Arabia in July, Mr. Carney told reporters asking about human rights that "lecturing countries from afar" is ineffective.

"It's about markets, not morals," Prof. Hampson said.

The government insists it is adding trade priorities to long-standing values, but some veterans of Liberal Canadian diplomacy, notably Mr. Axworthy, see it as a narrower focus.

Mr. Carney's approach to Saudi Arabia, silent on human rights and proliferation concerns about the new U.S.-Saudi nuclear agreement, is an example, Mr. Axworthy said in an interview. "You can't simply wear a cloak of economic activity and not be responsible with the other things that are going on," he said.

And Prof. Hampson doubts diplomats will be moved to take greater risks. Mr. Carney isn't known for empowering cabinet ministers to make decisions, he said, and foreign-service budgets have been squeezed.

Yet whether the diplomats embrace risk-taking or not, their mission has changed.

**Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand delivers a speech at the Global Heads of Mission Meeting in Ottawa on June 1.** SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# How far left is the Democratic Party willing to go?

A strong majority of the party's voters are open to the idea of a democratic socialist as president, poll shows

**DAVID SHRIBMAN** GILFORD, N.H.

ANALYSIS

**Abdul El-Sayed, the favourite to win the Michigan Democratic Senate primary, speaks with reporters at the Spirit of Detroit monument after a march in Detroit on Sunday.** JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's 17 months until the first 2028 presidential primaries, and already an important part of the Democrats' rhetoric is evident in a church assembly hall of a New Hampshire town where a likely candidate is searching for applause lines.

"We can't have the same status quo, incremental politics," Representative Ro Khanna of California is telling voters in this community of 7,699, where the handwritten election results showed a 278-vote margin of victory for Donald Trump in 2024. Later, in an interview in the hallway of the First United Methodist Church, he says that "Democrats have to regain the sense of systematic change," explaining, "If there's one thing we can learn from Donald Trump, it's to be bold."

That's the kind of language also being employed by Abdul El-Sayed, a Rhodes scholar and one-time Columbia University epidemiology professor who is the favourite to win the Michigan Democratic Senate primary Tuesday.

But being the favourite in a midsummer primary in one state doesn't make Mr. El-Sayed – or the rhetoric he, Mr. Khanna and increasing numbers of young Democratic candidates are using – the favourites of the party establishment and figures such as Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, whose impulses often tug them to the centre of U.S. politics rather than to the left.

"If you're Chuck Schumer and your whole approach is that you get to go talk to the money people and then dole out their corporate money to help elect the people who are going to do the things that corporations want," Mr. El-Sayed, 41, told the news outlet Politico recently, then "yeah, I'm a threat to your system. So of course they're freaking out."

His opponent in Tuesday's Democratic primary in a vital swing state is Representative Haley Stevens, 43, who has the support of Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the sorts of congressional leaders Mr. El-Sayed is portraying as feckless in the fight against the wealth gap and resistant to embrace a broad health care program.

Hence the range war in the Democratic Party – one that, for the first time in more than a century, includes a struggle over the place of socialists in the country's mainstream politics.

Neither Mr. Khanna nor Mr. El-Sayed is a socialist. Nor is either a member of the Democratic Socialists of America movement, whose views are not the same as those of European socialists. And, though Mr. Trump insists the contrary, no plausible U.S. congressional candidate is a communist or holds views remotely like those of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong or even Clement Attlee.

But despite these sorts of distinctions, dozens of candidates in this fall's midterm congressional elections are engaged in what can only be called a battle for the soul of a major American political party – a phrase that for the past 38 years has been repeatedly used to describe the debates within the Republican Party.

The Democrats' battle is over how far leftward the party and its candidates should lean in a political atmosphere still controlled by Mr. Trump but with a Democratic takeover of the House of Representatives, and perhaps even the Senate, increasingly possible if not likely. It also involves cold calculations of the power of Independents, who support Ms. Stevens by a large margin in Michigan polls and increasingly hold the balance of power in U.S. politics – and whose instincts and impulses often resist major shifts in the ideological profiles of the two established parties.

This issue inched to the fore with the election last November of Zohran Mamdani as mayor of New York and with the increased appearance of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at the side of Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont at anti-Trump rallies. All three are members of the Democratic Socialists of America.

Then three Democratic Socialists won high-profile New York primaries: Claire Valdez and Darializa Avila Chevalier in congressional contests and Aber Kawas in a state Senate contest.

About a third of Democrats now consider themselves democratic socialists, according to a CNN poll, though not all those voters support the Democratic Socialist Party – it only has about 120,000 members. Nor do they likely support many of its policy planks, such as abolishing the Defense Department, the police and the Senate and redrawing how the president and Supreme Court are chosen.

And while three-quarters of Democrats expressed openness to supporting a democratic socialist for president, 55 per cent of all voters said they would not, according to a Washington Post-Ipsos poll.

For years Mr. Trump has said that a winning strategy is to paint an opponent "as being a communist or a socialist or somebody who is going to destroy our country." This June, in an appearance at the Faith & Freedom Coalition conference, he warned, "They will close your churches in this country if they go communist, and they're trying to. They will kill your people, and that's what they're about. They want to end religion."

The Washington Post-Ipsos survey showed that 30 per cent of Americans believe democratic socialism is similar to communism, while 32 per cent disagree. The demographic groups with the greatest openness to democratic socialists are the young (46 per cent of those 18 to 29 years old) and the highly educated (44 per cent of those with a bachelor's degree and 51 per cent of those with a postgraduate education).

The last major socialist figure in U.S. politics was Eugene Debs, who ran for president five times, winning 6 per cent of the vote in 1912. His last campaign, in 1920, was run from prison, where he was serving a 10-year sentence for sedition for his opposition to the First World War. He still won almost a million votes, and Republican president Warren G. Harding commuted his sentence the following year on Christmas Day.

He met with Mr. Harding the next day. "Well," the 29th president said, "I've heard so damned much about you, Mr. Debs, that I am now glad to meet you personally."

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# Strong winds intensify wildfires, prompt more evacuation alerts in B.C.

Not yet safe to go into the fire areas to assess property damages, official says

**ASHLEY JOANNOU** VANCOUVER

A wildfire fanned by 115-kilometre-an-hour winds razed homes along the west side of British Columbia's Okanagan Lake, forcing many residents to escape to safety.

Video and photos posted online showed flames in the night sky engulfing properties as residents watched from the other side of the water. Later, the charred remains of buildings could be seen along the northern end of the lake near Vernon.

The BC Wildfire Service said Sunday that winds from an intense weather system on Saturday were too much for aircraft to hold back the Bradley Creek fire.

It prompted the evacuation of the Okanagan Indian Band reserve, while separate evacuation orders and alerts went up near the cities of Vernon and Armstrong.

The blaze was among dozens of wildfires in Southern B.C. that started on Saturday, forcing more than 5,000 people from their homes in the span of 24 hours.

Kevin Dunbar, executive director of provincial response and recovery operations, called it a "complex and rapidly evolving emergency response."

"Over the past 24 hours, strong winds and changing conditions have contributed to new evacuation orders and new evacuation alerts in several areas across the province," Mr. Dunbar told a news conference on Sunday.

Mr. Dunbar said it isn't safe yet for officials to go into the fire areas to assess how many properties have been lost or damaged.

Cliff Chapman, director of wildfire operations for the provincial wildfire service, told reporters that August is generally the hottest month of the year in B.C. and that crews are hoping for a few days of cooler temperatures before another ridge of high pressure brings back the heat.

"I suspect that in the next three to four days, we're going to have a chance to try to get around these fires and hopefully have a lot of success in suppression," he said.

"But we will be challenged with the return of a ridge pattern and the return of summer conditions."

Volunteers with the Central Okanagan Search and Rescue were among those called in to help with the quick evacuation of properties in the Okanagan Indian Band reserve and around Okanagan Lake.

An update posted on the Bradley Creek fire said a cold front passed across the region and brought sustained 80 km/h winds over the fire and 115 km/h winds at elevation, which was beyond what had been in the forecast.

"These winds caused significant challenges, and the firefighters, helicopters, airtankers and skimmers were unable to hold the fire," the update said.

The shifting winds also pushed the fire across Highway 97, which has been closed to traffic on what would be a busy holiday travel weekend.

The wildfire service reported that dozens more fires were sparked and have expanded quickly due to high winds and lightning strikes, with almost half of the 130 wildfires burning in the province out of control.

B.C. recorded more than 2,200 lightning strikes in 24 hours, the service said on Sunday.

As of Sunday morning, there were 42 separate evacuation orders for communities across the province and another 40 alerts.

Vernon's acting mayor Akbal Mund said in an interview Sunday that after a gusty day on Saturday, the winds calmed and the flames were moving away from the city of about 50,000 people.

"Yesterday the winds were very, very swift. We had a cold front move through, and I think some were saying winds were over 50 kilometres per hour. So, [that's] not good when you're trying to fight a fire," he said.

Mr. Mund said about 250 evacuees have registered so far at an emergency services centre set up in Vernon, where they can get water and food.

There was a lineup out the door of more people arriving Sunday morning, he said.

"I will tell you, they are as prepared as you can be under these circumstances. I haven't ever had to evacuate myself, but I can just imagine what that feels like for the people involved. So, the community is here to help," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Smoke billows from the Old Trails Fire in Spokane, Wash., on Sunday. Wildfires have destroyed at least 600 homes, businesses and other structures, authorities said Sunday.** DAVID RYDER/REUTERS

# Eastern Washington fires burn hundreds of buildings, force 60,000 from homes

**JOHN HANNA**

Wildfires in eastern Washington State forced the evacuation of 60,000 people in the Spokane area while destroying at least 600 homes, businesses and other structures, authorities said Sunday.

The fires in and around Spokane, the state's second-largest city, burned about 21 square kilometres over the weekend and were among dozens of wildfires across the Western United States that stretched the ability of federal, state and local agencies to fight them.

A total of about 1,000 square kilometres has burned across the state, and some of the fires, including those in the Spokane area, have not been contained.

Fire and law enforcement officials said there had been no reports of injuries or people unaccounted for — but they stressed it was early in the response effort.

Officials also said that the evacuees in Spokane included patients at its U.S. Veterans Affairs hospital.

Video from the Spokane area showed buildings on fire, black smoke billowing up near neighbourhoods, and the smoking ruins of homes, with only chimneys still standing.

Several officials expressed concern that the area does not appear likely to get a break in coming days from the weather, which is expected to remain dry.

"We are not out of danger," U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell said during a news conference with federal, state and local officials in Spokane. "The next couple of days will be challenging."

Investigators had yet to determine how the blazes started.

Spokane was hardly the only place struggling to contain fires.

Crews using bulldozers and helicopters continued for a 10th day to fight a fire that has burned nearly 1,360 square kilometres of grassland in western Idaho and eastern Oregon. The area is home to cattle ranches, and authorities said the fire is threatening more than 600 homes and 800 other structures.

The weather in the area was expected to remain sunny – and dry – well into the week, with temperatures rising to more than 32 C on Wednesday. Officials say the fire was caused by lightning.

The National Weather Service issued warnings about the air quality in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, western and central Idaho and western Montana.

It issued red-flag fire warnings for parts of Utah and Montana and western Nebraska, and extreme heat warnings for the southern parts of Arizona, California and Nevada and northern Montana.

While temperatures Sunday in Spokane were forecast to remain below 27 C, wind gusts from 56 to 72 kilometres an hour had been expected by the afternoon, said Benjamin Cossel, public information officer for the federal response team from California called in Saturday night to deal with the fires.

"We have weather working against us, and we have terrain working against us," Cossel said.

There were three fires in the Spokane area: the Old Trails Fire, the Fairview Fire and the Meadowview Fire. Washington Governor Bob Ferguson declared a state of emergency Saturday, and the National Weather Service issued a "particularly dangerous situation" red-flag alert for eastern Washington.

Cossel said that as it gets warmer during the day, cool air that's closer to the ground and keeping winds at bay will rise, allowing those winds to move through the area. The Spokane River cuts through the city of about 229,000 people, and there are steep canyons on both sides that channel the wind.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Senator Todd Lewis inspects canola at his farm near Gray, Sask., in July, 2021. The Speaker of the Senate announced Mr. Lewis's death on Saturday.** KAYLE NEIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Todd Lewis, Saskatchewan farmer appointed to Senate in 2025, dies at 65

**DAVID BAXTER** OTTAWA

Todd Lewis, a Saskatchewan senator, farmer and agricultural sector advocate has died at the age of 65.

Raymond Gagne, the Speaker of the Senate, announced Mr. Lewis's death Saturday afternoon and called him a "steadfast champion of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector."

"Throughout his more than four-decade career on the land, Senator Lewis emerged as a leading advocate for farmers' interests, serving five years as president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan and as a leading member of many other community organizations," Mr. Gagne said in a statement.

Mr. Lewis was appointed to the Senate by former prime minister Justin Trudeau on Feb. 7, 2025.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a statement that Mr. Lewis's lifetime of public service led him to the Senate where he remained a "steadfast voice" for rural communities.

"Senator Lewis understood that farming is more than a livelihood – it is a responsibility to the land, to one's neighbours, and to the generations that follow. He carried that conviction from his family farm in Gray, Saskatchewan, into a distinguished career of advocacy that made him one of Canadian agriculture's most trusted voices," Mr. Carney said.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe also shared a message of condolences, saying Mr. Lewis was a community leader and advocate for his home province.

Mr. Lewis operated a farm near Gray, Sask., about 39 kilometres south of Regina, for more than 40 years.

Mr. Lewis's past public service includes time on his local school board, more than 20 years as a council member for the rural municipality of Lajord, time as a volunteer firefighter and board president for his community rink.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Montreal police investigate fire that heavily damaged kosher restaurant

**CHARLOTTE GLORIEUX** MONTREAL

Montreal police are investigating after a fire heavily damaged a kosher restaurant overnight Saturday in the city's Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough.

Police said the case is being investigated as arson and that all hypotheses remain on the table, but investigators have not determined a motive and are not treating it as a hate crime at this stage.

The fire caused extensive damage to Nöam, a kosher restaurant on Decarie Boulevard, an area with a large Jewish community.

Montreal's fire department said nearly 80 firefighters responded to the two-alarm blaze near the intersection of Plamondon Avenue and Vézina Street at about 3 a.m.

Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough Mayor Stéphanie Valenzuela said the restaurant fire, coming days after a vehicle fire damaged the exterior of a mosque elsewhere in the borough, could understandably cause concern among residents. She stressed, however, that authorities had found no indication the two incidents were connected.

> Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree said on social media the federal government was concerned by what appeared to be an arson attack at a gathering place for Montreal's Jewish community.

The Montreal fire department is investigating the fire near the mosque, but the case had not been transferred to Montreal police and was not considered suspicious.

In a statement posted on social media, Ms. Valenzuela said the borough was in contact with police and leaders from the affected communities and was closely monitoring the situation.

"Acts of violence and intimidation have no place in our neighbourhoods," she wrote. "We remain vigilant and committed to the safety of our communities."

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree said on social media the federal government was concerned by what appeared to be an arson attack at a gathering place for Montreal's Jewish community.

"Antisemitism simply has no place in our society and we must do everything we can to eradicate it wherever it manifests," he said in his post.

Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather said he was "absolutely disgusted" and called for the case to be investigated as a hate crime.

In a post on social media, he said those responsible should be caught and prosecuted "to the fullest extent of the law."

Federal Identity and Culture Minister Marc Miller also condemned the fire, saying on social media he trusted the "disgraceful act" would be properly investigated as a hate crime.

B'nai Brith Canada, a Jewish advocacy organization, also condemned the fire and called for action.

"Jewish Canadians have heard enough condemnation and promises," it said in a statement posted on social media. "Now we need action."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Creator with young-onset Alzheimer's dies by MAID

## Rebecca Luna began documenting journey on TikTok after noticing cognitive decline at 46

**KRISTY KIRKUP**
HEALTH REPORTER

**Rebecca Luna made a bucket-list trip to Costa Rica in October. After being diagnosed with young-onset Alzheimer's disease at 48, her condition deteriorated more quickly than expected.** VANESSA AEGIRSDOTTIR

Days before her death, Rebecca Luna shared with her more than 90,000 followers on TikTok that she no longer felt safe in her body. She said it had come to the point where she would access medical assistance in dying.

The 49-year-old from Victoria, who earned a devoted online audience by candidly sharing her experience with young-onset Alzheimer's disease, died on July 25.

Ms. Luna was a single mother of two who started to notice cognitive decline at the age of 46. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's two years later.

The disease, which causes memory loss, progressed more quickly than expected, prompting her to seek MAID last month. Losing the ability to consent would have put the procedure out of reach.

"I did not want this," she said in a recorded message posted to her social-media account on July 22. "What I want is relief."

Quebec is the only province that allows residents with serious and incurable illnesses that lead to incapacity to seek MAID months or years in advance. Quebeckers with conditions such as Alzheimer's can get early approval for MAID – before their illnesses cause them to lose capacity.

That means such patients elsewhere in Canada, including Ms. Luna, feel pressed to die earlier than planned so they have the capacity to give consent, advocates say. Critics, however, caution against advance requests because those patients would not be able to offer final consent before ending their lives, and may be frightened in their last moments.

Helen Long, chief executive officer of Dying with Dignity Canada, said it is not appropriate that one province offers this to its residents and others don't.

Advance requests should be available across the country, she added.

"We hear from people about this every day."

The push for legislative change to allow advance requests was supported by a parliamentary committee in February, 2023. It recommended that the requests should be available under certain circumstances, such as if a patient has Alzheimer's.

In the fall of 2019, The Alzheimer's Society of Canada recognized the right of patients who want to seek advance requests for MAID. This marked a change for the non-profit that advocates for people with dementia, which used to oppose advance consent for MAID on the grounds it could put vulnerable people at risk.

"We respect the right of all persons with dementia to advocate for their individual best interests, including advocating for access to MAID through advance requests," the society says on its website.

Canadian children's author Robert Munsch has publicly shared why living with a neurodegenerative disease creates a conundrum about timing for his own MAID procedure. The 81-year-old has dementia and lives in B.C.

"I have to pick the moment when I can still ask for it," Mr. Munsch told The New York Times last fall.

Quebec passed legislation allowing advance requests in June, 2023, and the federal government did not challenge the province.

Earlier this year, Quebec confirmed that 2,100 individuals have been approved for advance requests in the province since it began granting them in October, 2024. It is unclear how many advance-request procedures have been administered.

Currently, the country's Criminal Code only allows patients to seek MAID if they suffer from a terminal or incurable physical medical condition. This spring, access to MAID for patients whose sole underlying condition is mental illness was the subject of political debate at a special parliamentary committee.

A majority of committee members said in a report that individuals whose sole condition is mental illness should not be eligible for MAID, and the law should be amended to indefinitely exclude these patients.

Justice Minister Sean Fraser has promised to review the committee's work, as well as dissenting opinions, and speak to stakeholders before deciding on the government's next steps.

Pamela Wallin, an independent senator, has legislation at second reading in the Senate that calls for changes to the Criminal Code to allow patients to access advance requests for MAID.

Ms. Wallin watched her late mother, a former school teacher, struggle with Alzheimer's disease. It was like witnessing her mom's "slow descent into hell," she previously told the Senate.

She has also noted that public support for advance requests is mounting, especially as the population ages and more people are diagnosed with dementia.

In October, 2025, Health Canada found through national consultations that advance requests are "generally supported."

"Throughout the roundtable discussions, a number of participants indicated that people want the option of being able to make advance requests, in keeping with their values around personal autonomy and choice over their health care needs," a summary of the consultations said.

However, the department said that some participants shared concerns about allowing MAID when patients are not able to offer final consent.

Catherine Ferrier, a family doctor and assistant professor in geriatric medicine at McGill University, shares this concern.

Dr. Ferrier worries about patients not being able to give consent at the time of a procedure or being able to understand what is happening to them.

Sandra Demontigny, who has early onset Alzheimer's, has a different perspective. The mother of three from Lévis, Que., advocated for her home province to make advanced requests available.

Ms. Demontigny told The Globe and Mail earlier this year how she is haunted after witnessing her father's decline with the disease, including hearing him groan while unable to speak. She does not want her own children to see her in this state.

"I really don't want to live like that," she said this winter, knowing her health would continue to deteriorate.

"I cannot put my children through that."

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**Puffins fly above the ocean near Great Island in Mobile, N.L.** PHOTOS BY GREG LOCKE/GLOBE AND MAIL

# **Puffins:** The birds' bold beaks hold no utility beyond fishing

FROM A1

It turned into a career that took him from Hawaii to Norway and eventually to Newfoundland, where he studies seabirds and how to save them from threats like climate change. With its craggy coastal cliffs and offshore islands, ideal for breeding birds, the province nicknamed "the Rock" is a great place to find them.

The biggest colony of Atlantic puffins in North America is at the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve south of St. John's. More than a quarter of a million pairs of the birds gather there every spring. They raise their young in burrows dug into the turf of offshore islands, where predators like rats and foxes can't reach them. The males and females, which look the same and usually mate for life, work together to protect and feed their chicks (called – what else? – pufflings). Each pair produces just one a season.

Once they are big enough, the young take off and fly out to sea alone. For the next few years, till they reach breeding age themselves, they live on the waters of the wild North Atlantic, bobbing on the surface and using their short, strong wings to dive for small fish.

In these early years, puffins are effectively an aquatic animal, never touching land. They look nothing like the gaudy creatures that tourists love to photograph. Their legs are dark, and their beaks are a non-descript grey with a browny-yellowish tip. For years, the birds found at sea were thought to be an entirely different species, for how could they be related to the colourful "sea parrots" seen on the coasts?

But as spring comes and the light out in the ocean starts to change, puffins of breeding age go through a dramatic metamorphosis. They grow new flight feathers for the trip back to land. A bright red ring appears around their dark eyes, an effect heightened, as if by eyeliner, with that eyebrow streak. The testicles of the male grow from the size of a poppyseed to that of a bean.

Most striking of all, their beaks take on a flattened, hatchetlike look, enlivened by those bands of deep colour. A rosette of yellow skin like a flower petal forms at the corner of their mouths. Voilà, you have the classic puffin portrayed on dish towels and fridge magnets.

"These deeply readied birds are the beautiful, perfected creatures you see gathered in spring at the colony," British author Adam Nicolson writes in *The Seabird's Cry: The Lives and Loves of Puffins, Gannets and Other Ocean Voyagers.*

He says the beaks serve as a kind of billboard of health, demonstrating that the bird is ready and able to mate and raise young. To create such a bright billboard, the birds must eat lots of fish rich in the pigments known as carotenoids, which go into creating the colours on their beaks. It is a biologically "expensive" process that only a healthy bird can accomplish.

"Breeding puffins, like *hidalgos* at court, need to look like heroes, an exhibition of their own marvellousness," Mr. Nicolson writes.

But Prof. Jones says it is not quite that simple. For one thing, he says, studies have

At breeding, puffins go through a metamorphosis where they grow new flight feathers and their beaks take on a flattened, hatchet-like look, enlivened by bands of deep colour.

British author Adam Nicolson theorizes that puffins' beaks serve as a billboard of health, demonstrating that the bird is ready and able to mate and raise young.

Memorial University professor, Ian L. Jones, right, and guide Jeannine Winkel photograph puffins and other sea birds in 2025 near Great Island.

Prof. Jones says studies have found that there is not always a strong link between the health of a bird and the splendour of its ornamentation.

Tourists on a boat tour look for puffins. Despite theories, it's possible that the birds' bright beaks are just a meaningless mistake that became fixed in the species over time.

found that there is not always a strong link between the health of a bird and the splendour of its ornamentation. The puffin with the brightest beak may not be the most robust puffin.

So scientists have come up with other possible explanations. One is that birds, and other animals, tend to be attracted to the shapes and colours found in the foods they eat. They have a "pre-existing bias" about what they find stimulating.

Prof. Jones points to the king vulture of Central and South America, which has a head, ornamented with a floppy wattle, that looks a lot like a pile of fresh guts. Vultures eat the guts of dead animals, so that may make the bird attractive to a mate.

Puffins might be doing something similar. Red is the colour of food for many animals, so red is a popular colour of animal ornamentation. Puffins sometimes eat krill, shrimp-like crustaceans that appear in the sea in pink or red swarms. That could help explain the red bill.

Another theory holds that weird genetic traits arise in species when an anomaly gets out of hand. Say a female bird sees a male bird with an unusual hooked beak and for some reason finds him irresistible. Their sons and daughters will inherit both the hooked-beak mutation and the preference for that look. As generation follows generation, the mutation will "run away" till the whole species has it. This is called the Fisherian runaway theory, after its author, Ronald Fisher, a British statistician and biologist.

So it could be that the puffin beak is just a meaningless mistake that became fixed in the species over time. We recognize puffins because of it, and they recognize each other as fellow puffins because of it, but it has no special utility otherwise.

Apart from its practical role as a fish-catcher, that is. Its serrated edges allow puffins to catch several fish at once, holding the first catches in place with their muscular tongues while seizing others one by one. They surface holding the fish crossways and side by side, making it look as if the birds have droopy moustaches as well as comical beaks.

A colleague of Prof. Jones at Memorial, Pierre-Paul Bitton, is working on yet another hypothesis about those beaks. Many birds communicate with each other through song. Puffins are notably quiet, a marked contrast to the raucous seabirds that they hang out with on Newfoundland's coast. Their only significant vocalization is a chainsaw-like growling noise they sometimes make.

So Prof. Bitton thinks they use the patterns of their beaks instead of their voices to recognize one another. Puffins study each other closely, especially when they are courting. Males and females reuniting after months at sea can often be seen "billing," tapping and rubbing their beaks together in a kind of ritual dance. Their beaks have distinct ridges and grooves, set apart by their colours, and those may serve as identifying marks.

To test the theory, Prof. Bitton and his students put stuffed puffins in a colony and watched how the birds reacted. Now he is working on a new wrinkle. He wants to put the fake birds on miniature tracks and make them pop out of their burrows as real puffin parents would. His students have the privilege of designing the world's first puffin railway.

But even if he finds support for his ideas, they wouldn't necessarily cancel out the others, Prof. Bitton says. A puffin's ornamental summer beak may do many things at once: signal its condition, identify it and help it form relationships with others.

"You're dealing with these really complex dynamics," he says. "Are we ever going to solve it all? Probably not."

He keeps trying in part because the information might help scientists understand the social dynamics among puffins and what happens to those dynamics if populations decline, as they have been in some places. Britain has seen its numbers drop by a quarter since 2000, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said on April 14, World Puffin Day.

Whatever its purpose, the beak that delights tourists is a transitory thing. Toward the end of the breeding season, its colours fade, and the horny plates that give it shape start to flake off. Shedding their costumes and makeup, the puffins go back to their anonymous offstage life, ranging over the expanse of the grey ocean.

# EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius*

## The weight of the word of the U.S. president

In 1962, when Charles De Gaulle was offered photographs proving the Soviet Union was stationing nuclear missiles in Cuba, the French president waved the photographs away. "The word of the President of the United States is good enough for me," he reportedly said.

This is what Donald Trump has squandered.

There was a time when an American president could be taken at his word. Yes, there were exceptions: Richard Nixon declaring he knew nothing about the Watergate burglary; George W. Bush insisting Iraq under president Saddam Hussein had produced chemical weapons.

And presidents have made promises that Congress has failed to keep, from the Senate refusing to endorse the Woodrow Wilson's commitment to join the League of Nations in 1920 to Congress this year failing to pass legislation backed by Mr. Trump that would restrict voting rights.

But this president has gone where no U.S. president has gone before. He has repudiated the commitments of previous presidents and Congresses, repudiated his own previous commitments, and sometimes repudiated those repudiations, rendering not just his word but the word of the government of the United States virtually without worth.

This leaves Prime Minister Carney and his advisers in an impossible situation. The Americans are demanding concessions from Canada beyond those already offered as a precondition for talks to revise and renew the Canada-United States-Mexico trade agreement.

But why on earth would the Canadian government offer concessions on CUSMA, knowing that any future agreement could be tossed aside the next time Mr. Trump gets into a snit?

Over and over again, this president has demonstrated that his word, not to mention existing treaties, is anything but binding. He has repeatedly questioned America's commitment to NATO, first on the grounds that other members don't spend enough on defence, and more recently because they refused to come to America's aid when it attacked Iran.

European nations are racing to build up defences against a possible Russian attack in Eastern Europe, knowing they can no longer count on the United States having their back.

The Trump administration has at various times cut off, and then restored, American support for Ukraine in the wake of the Russian invasion. He has imposed, lifted and reimposed tariffs on nations around the world.

No country has suffered more from tariff impositions and shifts than Canada. This country endures tariffs on steel, aluminium and automobiles, and faces a fresh batch of targeted tariffs – some of which would violate CUSMA – that will come into effect Aug. 19 unless a new agreement is reached.

On top of all this, the U.S. President is threatening to impose tariffs to punish Canada for wildfire smoke that has drifted into the United States this summer.

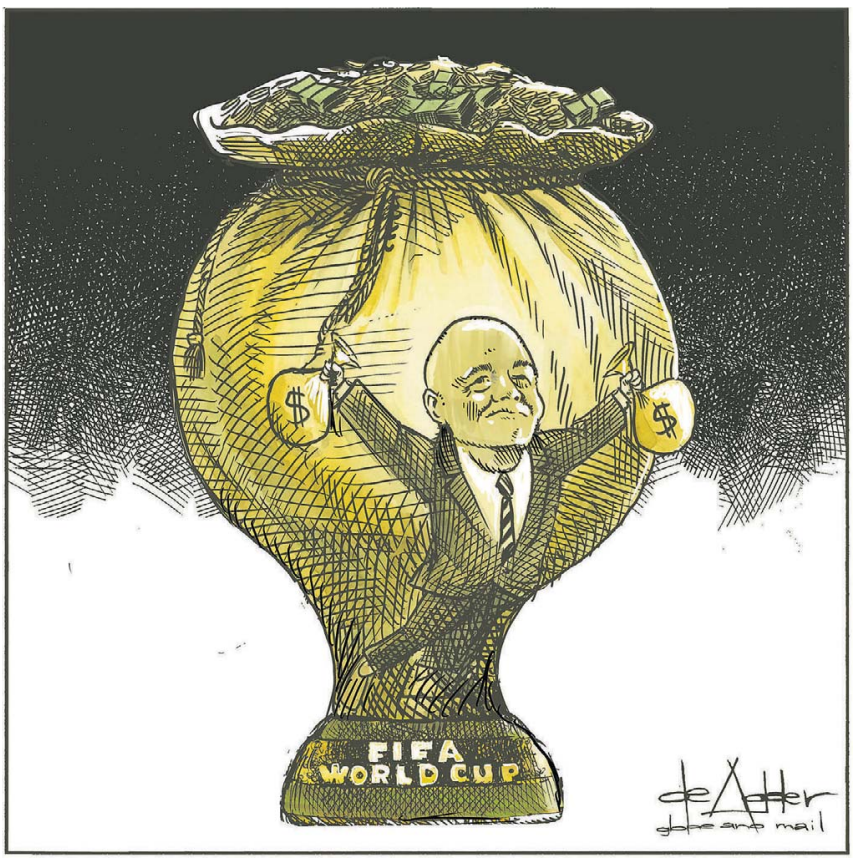
And then there is the infamous case of the Gordie Howe Bridge connecting Windsor to Detroit. Canada paid for the bridge and agreed to share revenues with Michigan, after construction costs had been recouped. But then Mr. Trump horned in, demanding that the U.S. government receive a cut. Ottawa swallowed hard and agreed to give the United States a piece of the action.

How do Canada and its allies get by in a world in which the United States, despite remaining vibrant economically and culturally, has become so politically dysfunctional that a plurality of voters elected a president who repeatedly muses about annexing Canada and turning this country into the 51st state? Who wants to annex Greenland, despite the fierce opposition of Greenlanders and Danes?

It is true that Mr. Trump's term runs out in two and a half years, and that the next U.S. president may try to assure allies that the United States can once again be trusted as a responsible partner. But the world knows that America is always one election away from another MAGA White House. No deal signed with the United States is a secure deal.

This must be terrifying to people in Poland and the Baltic States and South Korea and Taiwan, knowing that their American ally can no longer be trusted to come to their aid if they face invasion.

Charles De Gaulle and many other world leaders over decades assumed as a matter of course that an American president's word was his bond. That is no longer true, making the world a more dangerous place.




# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### OLDER WORKERS

Re "We need more government incentives for older adults to keep working" (Report on Business, July 30): Canada is aging faster than it can replace itself. Immigration has slowed, and the economy needs workers of all ages to remain productive. Economists call the false belief that older workers take opportunities away from younger workers the "lump of labour fallacy."

Our longer lives have outpaced associated institutions and norms. More people are continuing to work well beyond age 65; the labour force participation rate for that age group hit a record 15.2 per cent in 2025.

Pitting generations against one another is unproductive. Canada benefits when all ages work together to optimize the standard of living we have come to appreciate.

**Helen Hirsh Spence** Ottawa

### KEEP IT FLOWING

Re "Carney rules out using energy as leverage in U.S. trade talks" (July 30): While I am no fan of Canada's overwhelming dependence on the United States for our energy exports – especially oil and gas – threatening to cut them in retaliation for recent tariff threats invites U.S. President Donald Trump to cite national security as an excuse to act against Canada's sovereignty.

Remember what happened to Venezuela? I estimate it would take 27 minutes, more or less, for a large contingent of Black Hawk helicopters carrying Navy Seals and Marines to land on Parliament Hill, overcome a few security guards, secure the building and plant the American flag.

"America's saviour" and "Manifest Destiny"– the belief that the United States is divinely ordained to expand across the North American continent – would play very well among Donald Trump's supporters and, I expect, many Alberta separatists.

**Mike Priaro** Calgary

While I agree with Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent plan to rule out restricting exports of oil or natural gas to the U.S. in retaliation for tariffs and insults, I question why he chose to make that position public. He has repeatedly said that Canada would not negotiate in public, yet this announcement seems to do exactly that.

A more effective response would be to charge world market prices for the energy we export to the United States. That move would benefit Canada far more than restricting supply and is better than retaliatory tariffs, which ultimately raise costs for Canadians.

And speaking of restrictions, removing American liquor from store shelves was a mistake. Put it back and make Ottawa's task easier.

**Peter M. Gallop** Toronto

The Prime Minister is right to withhold making knee-jerk moves in retaliation tariffs. As the saying goes, an eye for an eye makes the world blind. We see it in the mess of our tit-for-tat world, as wars churn on – including ones that Trump has either insinuated himself into or fomented.

Energy is to life as is our need for clean potable water. Over the coming months, it is incumbent on the American people and their representatives to turn the tide and reign in the Whitehouse.

Until that happens, Canadians must hold our dignity powder dry; it is globally held in high regard. Let the United States go low while change happens as it must and as the polls shout it will.

**Marianna Kingsmill** Hamilton

### HATE IS EVERYWHERE

Re "Normalized and ignored, hate absolutely has a place in Canada" (Opinion, July 29): This column is wonderfully clear-eyed in revealing the doublespeak mirage that antisemitism (and, I would add, anti-LBGTQ, anti-women, anti-Muslim et cetera) rhetoric "has no place in our communities" (or that "this is not who we are") and then making us face the reality that fear, distrust or dislike of "the Other" so often escalates to hate here, there and everywhere in the world, since time began.

I agree that the most important question now, not just for government but for all of us, is whether we intend to actually do something about it.

**Michael A. Tukatsch** Toronto

The attitude of our political leaders at all levels seems to range between indifference and hostility on this issue.

The Office of the Prime Minister in particular has the opportunity – and obligation – to set the tone. Take, for example, a recent open letter by leading non-Jewish Canadians in business and other sectors decrying antisemitism. As Mr. Carney's words were quoted therein, it represented a clear opportunity for the Prime Minister to build upon them. However, his response was deafening silence.

The Canadian Jewish community continues to contribute much to our country. The fight against the normalization of hate requires political leadership. We continue to wait.

**Ronald Birken** Toronto

### ROBOTS DON'T SHOP

Re "China is AI-maxxing and it has a lot to teach us" (Report on Business, July 30): It is hard to avoid news of AI in the world of work. I can't help recalling union leader Dennis McDermott telling me about an alleged encounter between Henry Ford and Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers. Ford remarked that one day the work undertaken by UAW members would be handled by robots. To which Reuther replied, "But will these robots buy Ford cars?"

**John Harker** Lunenburg, N.S.

### ANOTHER TAKE

Re "Prescription for burnout" (Letters, July 30): I don't believe people turn to emergency departments because "primary care, home care and timely follow-up" have failed them.

Many patients are more complicated than they used to be. Cancer can now be a chronic condition. Heart failure – a condition that didn't exist before advanced stenting and cardiovascular techniques – has become the second most common reason for hospital admission (after childbirth). Biologic medications have controlled previously devastating diseases, but run risks of immunosuppression (among other side effects).

While I wholeheartedly support hospital-at-home programs, I would propose that it's the *lack* of primary care that is failing emergency departments. One needs a care provider on the other end for continuity.

I cannot control where my patients go, but if I direct them to the ED, it's because their chest pain or shortness of breath obligates investigations and care beyond my stethoscope. This is not a failure. It's triage.

**Benjamin Reitzel,** MD; North Bay, Ont.

### KICK OFF YOUR SHOES

Re "When life's moving too fast, go barefoot" (First Person, July 25): As someone who grew up on a farm in southern Alberta, I recall glowing with satisfaction when I strode barefoot on gravel or rocky ground without flinching in front of visiting city cousins. Admittedly there was no need for vigilance to avoid scorpions or other venomous creatures lurking in the underbrush, but I still experienced glimmers of Tom Sawyerish freedom that made me feel brave and unencumbered.

**Paul Thiessen** Vancouver

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# OPINION

## Government affordability plans need specifics

Unless affordability is defined and delineated, their broad policies will be doomed to fail

SERGE DUPONT
KEVIN LYNCH

OPINION

Serge Dupont is senior adviser and head of public policy at Bennett Jones.

Kevin Lynch is a former senior public servant and former vice-chair of BMO.

Opinion polls and pundits all agree that affordability is a top concern for Canadians. Many describe the lack of affordability as a crisis, particularly for low- and middle-income Canadians. The public is rightfully upset that too many households are unable to find housing they can afford, and demand at food banks is rising as the cost of the average grocery basket soars. Governments are being called upon to act urgently and boldly.

But successfully tackling any problem starts with clearly defining it. And affordability is an amorphous concept that means many different things to different people.

For many young adults, it means being able to afford rent and not camping out with their parents. For young families, it is about realistically aspiring to home ownership. For many consumers, it means that purchases of grocery staples should comfortably fit within a budget. For households, it means that paying for the essentials should not mean sacrificing all non-essentials. And for many, it can evoke nostalgia for a time when middle-class life seemed more predictable, technology was not upending everything (including work), and parents had more confidence their children would have a better life.

Unless governments unpack affordability into the specific issues to be tackled, and communicate them with clear objectives and targeted measures, their efforts will be frustratingly futile. Affordability as a generic government objective, however noble the intent, provides no objective measures of policy success, and many subjective measures of failure.

Whether the issue is housing, food, energy, or overall household budgets, governments need to start the public discussion by clearly identifying the affordability problem they plan to tackle and rigorously understanding its root causes rather than rushing to promise quick solutions using fiscal band-aids. The durable solutions will often involve supply-side structural reforms, not demand-side price support. That's harder to communicate in a world demanding instant responses, certainly, but it's much more likely to succeed and maintain public confidence.

A key part of the affordability-policy architecture is keeping CPI inflation low. The Bank of Canada misread cost pressures coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation rose well above its 2-per-cent target, peaking at 8 per cent in mid-2022. This forced the bank to raise interest rates sharp ly, and the higher mortgage rates in turn hurt housing affordability. Since mid-2024, with inflation again near 2 per cent, interest rates – including mortgage rates – have declined, improving housing affordability. This illustrates the importance of holding to the inflation targets by taking early policy action if inflationary pressures return – for example, a spike in global oil prices, which feeds through the economy.

Yet, while inflation is back to its 2-per-cent target, price levels remain higher, especially for certain items like food. The Bank of Canada targets inflation, not price levels, so consumers have to adjust to today's higher prices. Part of the affordability adjustment for households is incomes as well as prices. And the best way to get household incomes up is by creating the economic conditions for good jobs and strong productivity growth, while using targeted policy vehicles such as the GST credit to deliver transitional income support to those most in need.

More broadly, the factors affecting the various aspects of affordability are often quite different, whether it is the nature of the cost pressures, exposure to global supply chains, market dynamics, and how households can adjust. It follows that the most effective policy remedies should be different, and targeted, as well.

Energy is a good example. An oft-stated goal is that energy must be secure, sustainable and affordable. While it is hard to disagree, the challenge arises when there is conflict among the objectives, as there often is. When residential electricity prices rise above the average inflation rate of 2 per cent to pay for the costs of new capacity, such as upgraded transmission lines or cleaner sources of supply, the public screams about affordability; governments then often rush to keep prices artificially low through direct or indirect subsidies. That's bad policy in the guise of protecting affordability.

In short, affordability is anything but a single problem in search of a simple solution. Governments need to be more modest in their overly broad promises to fix affordability, and more effective in their actions to tackle specific affordability problems.

Effective governing is about clearly defining the problem to be addressed, setting realistic targets, executing the needed policy changes, and being held accountable for the outcomes. This approach will yield the most durable results for trust in government – and, more importantly, for Canadians in their everyday lives.

## Canada's new Food Security Strategy won't end food insecurity

NICK SAUL
JASMINE RAMZE REZAEE

OPINION

Nick Saul is the CEO of Right To Food.

Jasmine Ramze Rezaee is Right To Food's director of policy and community action.

Ottawa's recently released National Food Security Strategy recognizes that Canada's food system faces real challenges, but it largely overlooks the single biggest driver of household food insecurity: inadequate incomes. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Every summer, Canadians gather around backyard barbecues or join neighbourhood potlucks on the street. These moments are meant to be about connection. But for millions of people, they also come with stress and anxiety: Can we afford to bring something? Can we afford to host? Should we even go?

Those same financial pressures dominate kitchen table conversations year-round. With grocery prices remaining stubbornly high and the cost of living continuing to outpace many household budgets, more and more Canadians from all walks of life are feeling the squeeze.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has acknowledged these concerns and promised to make life more affordable. It remains one of the defining domestic challenges facing his government.

That is why the federal government's recently released National Food Security Strategy is so disappointing. It rightly recognizes that Canada's food system faces real challenges. Climate change, supply chain disruptions, food processing capacity, corporate concentration, and domestic food production all deserve the serious attention it gives them.

But the strategy will do little to help the millions of Canadians struggling to afford groceries today because it largely overlooks the single biggest driver of household food insecurity: inadequate incomes.

Food insecurity in Canada isn't primarily a food systems problem. It's an affordability problem.

That's why a group of leading non-profit organizations working on food security and poverty reduction has issued a joint statement calling on the federal government to strengthen the National Food Security Strategy before it moves into implementation. Together, we are urging Ottawa to convene a formal roundtable with the non-profit sector.

The reason is simple. For decades, evidence has consistently shown that household food insecurity is driven by inadequate incomes – not by a shortage of food. Canada produces plenty of food. Yet nearly a quarter of people in this country – almost 10 million, including one in three children – experience food insecurity because they can't afford the basics.

Food insecurity means skipping meals, buying cheaper and less nutritious food, worrying about running out of food before payday, and relying on food charities simply to get through the month. It is one of the clearest indicators that our affordability crisis has gone too far.

But how we diagnose the problem matters because different problems require different solutions. If the problem is food production, we invest in farmers, food processors and resilient supply chains. If the problem is affordability, we must also ensure that people have enough income to buy the food that already exists.

The National Food Security Strategy makes important commitments to strengthen Canada's food systems. But it contains no measurable targets for reducing household food insecurity. It introduces no significant new income security measures. And while it acknowledges Indigenous food sovereignty, it does not provide new investments to support Indigenous-led food systems and traditional harvesting. These are significant omissions.

No amount of investment in food processing or agricultural innovation will help a parent standing in the grocery aisle who simply doesn't have enough money in their bank account.

We've seen what happens when governments increase incomes. During the pandemic, emergency income supports reduced food insecurity and poverty among many households. Programs like the Canada Child Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement have similarly demonstrated that when incomes improve, food insecurity and poverty declines. The opposite is also true. When living costs rise faster than incomes – whether from work or government supports – more people struggle to afford food.

The National Food Security Strategy can still become a stronger roadmap. As it moves into implementation, the federal government has an opportunity to work with the non-profit sector to ensure the strategy reflects what decades of evidence have shown: when incomes rise, food insecurity falls.

In a country as prosperous as Canada, no one should have to choose between paying the rent and buying groceries. The evidence is clear, and the solutions are within reach. What stands in our way is not a lack of resources, but political choices and priorities. The question is whether the federal government is prepared to act on what we already know.

## Shipriders demonstrate how Canada and the U.S. can still work together

MICHAEL BYERS
FULFORD HARBOUR, B.C.

OPINION

Teaches global politics and international law at the University of British Columbia

Armed U.S. Coast Guard officers often stop for lunch at Rock Salt, a seaside restaurant in this tiny village on Salt Spring Island.

Their presence reflects the fact that some Canada-U.S. co-operation remains necessary, notwithstanding President Donald Trump's threats to make this country the 51st state.

Just 15 kilometres south of here, the international maritime boundary bisects the Salish Sea – and its archipelago, composed of hundreds of islands.

The U.S. officers that frequent Rock Salt are part of Integrated Cross-Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations. They are called "shipriders" because they only ever enter Canada in the company of Canadian RCMP officers.

Some days, they arrive on Salt Spring Island on a small U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat. When this happens, there are always three American officers on board, and one Canadian. On other days, a single American officer will arrive on an RCMP boat, with three Canadians.

Having officers from both countries on board enables them to move freely across the maritime boundary. They can, for instance, pursue a suspected smuggling boat if it attempts to flee one country for the other.

When a U.S. Coast Guard boat crosses into Canada, command of the vessel automatically transfers to the RCMP officer on board. When an RCMP boat crosses into the United States, command transfers to the U.S. Coast Guard officer. And if there is a need to arrest someone, this is always done by an officer from the country where the suspect is being apprehended.

All this might look like a bit excessive, but the system is carefully crafted to protect the sovereignties of both countries.

Sometimes, shipriders simply gather intelligence. In 2017, two suspected smugglers – one Canadian, one American – transferred 55 kilograms of cocaine between two speedboats on the U.S. side of the maritime boundary.

Observing the transfer from a distance, the shipriders decided not to engage in a potentially futile high-speed chase. Instead, they made a couple of calls. When the Canadian smuggler returned to Victoria, he was promptly arrested, as was the American when he returned to Oak Harbor, Wash.

Shipriders also contribute to search and rescue operations. Last August, an RCMP boat with a U.S. Coast Guard officer on board responded rapidly to a distress call from the American side of the boundary. The binational crew helped save a dozen kayakers, including six children, who had been caught in a squall.

Shipriders are only one example of continued Canada-U.S. co-operation driven by geography. Air traffic controllers at Vancouver International Airport have responsibility over a large portion of nearby U.S. airspace for safety reasons. And last month, a Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft based at the airport deployed to a floatplane crash just south of the maritime boundary.

Meanwhile, ferries sailing between Vancouver and Victoria pass through U.S. waters without anyone being required to go through U.S. customs and immigration.

Farther north, residents of the Alaska Panhandle use gasoline and diesel that has travelled by barge from Washington State through the "Inside Passage" between Vancouver Island and mainland B.C. The Inside Passage constitutes "internal waters" that no foreign vessel can enter without permission, with Canada always granting permission here.

Then there are the large oceangoing ships that call at Vancouver or Seattle to take on cargo, including bitumen from Alberta. These vessels access the Pacific Ocean through the aptly named Boundary Pass – along shipping lanes that pass around the southern tip of Vancouver Island, and are co-managed by Canada and the United States.

Last but not least, an endangered population of killer whales – the southern resident orcas – swim back and forth across the maritime boundary, creating a conservation challenge that could only ever be adequately addressed by Canada and the United States working closely together.

One might regard all this co-operation as just a series of courtesies, but they reflect an age-old truth. Neighbours do not need to be friends, but they do have to work together.

The other week, after a tasty lunch at Rock Salt, I stopped by the shipriders' table – and thanked the four officers for showing how it's done.

# Does scheduling fun actually work?

## Being intentional about what goes on the calendar can help ensure the lively parts of life don't fade away

**ZOSIA BIELSKI**
TIME USE REPORTER

**From left to right: Margaret Moynes-Ecclestone, Scott Moynes, Sadie Moynes-Ecclestone and Meg Ecclestone are pictured by the Eramosa River in Guelph, Ont. on July 18.** PHOTOS BY GABRIEL HUTCHINSON/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

**Ecclestone said for this summer she decided to enter more 'joy' into the family calendar: 'My kids don't need to do 40 things a week.'**

Meg Ecclestone could feel her brain "quiet quitting" on her.

With nine-year-old twin daughters ricocheting between extracurricular activities all school year, Ecclestone and her partner were wiped out come Fridays, only to face weekends filled with tedious errands.

Despite using multiple calendar systems to co-ordinate home life in Guelph, Ont., she was forgetting things: a swim meet here, a dental visit there. She wondered whether her mind was protesting the weight of keeping everything in check.

This summer, Ecclestone – a university librarian and self-described "time-management fanatic" – decided to inject more joy into the family calendar.

For these last quiet spells in August, she started slotting in "scheduled-fun adventures." They'll pack into the car for meandering day trips, exploring country roads and charming small towns with old libraries and coffee shops. They'll visit a flower market, swim at the Elora Gorge, and walk in the woods. The mother knows her daughters will initially resist the hikes, only to race through the forest, morphing into "happy, feral, little cubs."

"My kids don't need to do 40 things a week," Ecclestone said. "They're going to remember that time we swam in the Grand River. It's family core memory-making, relaxing, enjoying our time together."

As the pace of modern life accelerates, more families are deliberately setting squares aside on the calendar for downtime – unstructured days with no goals or agendas. These are days for exploring, adventuring but also rest – days that might be considered "unproductive" in the modern sense but feel ever more valuable for harried people hoping to restore themselves.

While scheduled fun might sound like an oxymoron, without it families often end up deprioritizing the more exciting parts of life, says Ann Douglas, Ottawa Valley-based author of *Happy Parents, Happy Kids*.

"A lot of us, multiple generations, were raised with the idea that you do all the work you have to do first. On the weekend, you do the laundry and the groceries and take kids wherever you have to take them. Then it's 7 o'clock on a Sunday night, you have a bit of spare time, but now it's time to get ready for the week," said Douglas, who raised four children with her husband in Peterborough, Ont.

Canadians spend a meagre 1.3 per cent of each day on hobbies, arts and leisure, according to Statistics Canada. (Think board games or crafting, being in nature, taking in art or playing an instrument.) Increasingly, people are also spoiling vacation days meant for decompressing with family. Nearly half of Canadians surveyed this spring by Angus Reid and Employment Hero admitted to working through a holiday, with 41 per cent feeling guilty during their paid time off.

Douglas questions why we meticulously plan all the dull, obligatory parts life, but not the mirth and pleasure.

"Sometimes, we need to front-load fun," the author said.

With five kids from the age of 2 to 14 to wrangle in Burlington, Ont., Christine Tao and her husband made a conscious decision to confine their children's activities to two weekday evenings. That leaves three weeknights for themselves, plus Sunday, their family "sabbath" – no chores, sports practices, or driving to those practices.

"We're living our life together as a family," said Tao, a seminary student. "It is a very hollow family structure when you're just a chauffeur."

On the family's free days, Tao turns to her shared Google calendar, where she's plugged in reminders about local music, arts and culture festivals, gallery exhibits and art crawls, library crafting events, as well as playgroups for her younger ones.

"Our family knows this is all optional and flexible. We keep those spaces open on our calendar and then decide, do we want to rest today, or do we do a fun thing? We have the freedom."

She gleaned the wisdom of underscheduling while running a moms' group. Mothers of older kids warned her that overpacking the calendar was a common parenting trap.

Douglas, the author, can see how older generations might scratch their heads at the notion of penning in fun and rest. Today, parents anxious about their children's futures are setting aside less free time, filling their kids' hours with activities meant to impart new skills.

But Douglas argues that unambitious family time is equally valuable. "Relationship skills, the ability to relax and have fun, pacing yourself, emotional flexibility, being able to change plans – these are all essential skills for the future."

She reminds parents to curate experiences that feel fun for them too, instead of letting kids run the show every time.

Even in families without young children at home, fun can require foresight.

Every year, Catherine Wilde, her mother and her sister carefully plan an adventure together. Though Wilde and her mom live 15 minutes apart in Calgary, her sister is in Vancouver. Both siblings work demanding schedules.

"Fun for some people is going out for coffee or the local pub to shoot some pool. For me, fun is a much more planned, intentional event," said Wilde, a director of partnerships and scholarships at a national education association.

It starts with a shared Google document, where the women weigh in on how they want to spend their time together.

In June, they travelled to a cottage on Galiano Island in British Columbia. They decided to try something different – art projects, including handmade decorative coasters. This month, they'll venture to Medalta, a museum and former industrial ceramics manufacturing complex in Medicine Hat, Alta.

"With my family, what we found is that we really want to be having experiences together," Wilde said. "We're realizing as we're aging that time is going by really quickly. We need to co-ordinate because we're all busy."

To her, spontaneity can feel stressful: Deciding things last minute means plane tickets get expensive, campsites fill up and tickets sell out.

"With time pressures, my friends and I have been talking about how we don't play or have fun the way you did as a child," Wilde said.

"How do you know that you're having fun? Fun is where there's this unbridled energy. You feel free. You feel unencumbered. I feel like now, fun is becoming very structured."

# As summer brings cold drinks high in sugar, here's how to sip smarter

**LESLIE BECK**
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you're like many people, by now you've likely swapped your daily hot coffee for a cool, refreshing beverage, perhaps a flavoured iced cold brew, a sweet lemonade, or a fruit-flavoured slushie drink.

However, you may not realize how much sugar these thirst-quenching drinks contain, not to mention how many calories.

A study published last year in the journal Nature Climate Change analyzed U.S. data from 2004 through 2019 and found that people purchase, and likely consume, more added sugar from sugary beverages and frozen desserts during periods of rising temperatures and heatwaves. The finding isn't surprising given the sugar content of many popular summer drinks. A medium-sized (16-ounce) fruit-flavoured slushie, for instance, can deliver as much as 70 grams of sugar, the equivalent of 17.5 teaspoons.

Here's what to know about popular summer drinks, along with tips to help you sip smarter.

### HOW MUCH SUGAR IS TOO MUCH?

In 2015 the World Health Organization released guidelines recommending people reduce their intake of "free" sugars to less than 10 per cent of daily calories, with additional health benefits at levels below 5 per cent. For a 2,000 calorie diet, the five per cent free-sugar limit is equivalent to no more than 25 grams a day, about six teaspoons worth.

Free sugars include added sugars, as well as those naturally present in honey, maple syrup, agave syrup, pure fruit juice and fruit juice concentrates.

### HOW MUCH SUGAR IS HIDING IN YOUR SUMMER DRINK?

The nutrition numbers for many popular summer drinks may surprise you.

Consider that a large (24-ounce) Tim Hortons Peach Poppin' Frozen Quencher serves up 500 calories and a whopping 93 grams of sugar, the equivalent of 23 teaspoons. The company's large Frozen Lemonade provides 330 calories and 73 grams of sugar, roughly 18 teaspoons.

For comparison, a similar-sized medium (22-ounce) regular cola has fewer calories (284) and less sugar (67 grams). That doesn't make sugar-sweetened soft drinks a healthy choice, however, or a recommended substitute.

A Grande (16-ounce) Starbuck's Mango Strawberry Lemonade Refresher has 39 grams (10 teaspoons) of sugar. Upgrade to a Trenta size (30-ounce) and the sugar content jumps to 79 grams (20 teaspoons).

Sip on Second Cup's large (22-ounce) Italian Soda, "a combination of soda water and your choice of flavour," and you'll consume 54 grams of sugar (13.5 teaspoons).

Even flavoured iced cold brews – with coffee as their main ingredient – can supply a considerable amount of sugar, owing to concentrated syrups and sugar-sweetened cream toppings and sauces.

Second Cup's large (22-ounce) Vanilla Bean Flash Cold Brew has 38 grams of sugar while a Starbuck's Venti (24-ounce) S'mores Cold Brew delivers 34 grams, equivalent to 9.5 and 8.5 teaspoons of sugar, respectively.

### DOWNSIDES OF SUGARY DRINKS

If consumed regularly, sugary drinks are associated with an increased risk weight gain and obesity. Not only do they add extra calories to your diet, but research also suggests that calories in sugary drinks are less filling than the same number of calories from solid foods.

Studies indicate that people may compensate by eating a little less later, but that isn't enough to offset all of the calories. Over time, this can contribute to weight gain.

A diet high in sugar-sweetened beverages and added sugars is also tied to a great risk of Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

### STRATEGIES TO SIP SMARTER

You certainly don't have to ban these sugar-sweetened, warm-weather drinks from your summer diet. Many are best enjoyed as occasional treats.

If you consume them more often, the following tips can help you do so while reducing your intake of sugar and calories.

### ORDER A SMALLER SIZE

Instead of ordering the largest size, think small. For example, choosing a small rather than a large Tim Hortons Vanilla Bean Cold Brew cuts the sugar and calories in half, to 15 grams of sugar and 120 calories.

BECK, A13

ILLUSTRATION BY DREW SHANNON

# What's happened to the lazy Sunday drive?

FIRST PERSON

Canada deserves to be enjoyed slowly and carried home in memory, on journeys that don't need to be defended, **Tom W. Parkin** writes

A long-time friend once said that people keep fewer traditions than they used to. He did not mean the grand ceremonies, with speeches and programs and someone assigned to cut a ribbon. He meant the smaller customs: the repeated pleasures that ask for no justification beyond the happiness they provide.

One of these was the Sunday drive.

The phrase has not aged well. Today, a "Sunday driver" is a nuisance, a rolling obstruction in a world that measures virtue by speed. But in Revelstoke, B.C., Sunday driving (at least when I grew up in the 1960s) was not a failure to get somewhere quickly. It was the point of going out at all. Maybe it happened in your part of the country, too.

After breakfast, my father would announce that we might as well take a run somewhere. That was usually the extent of the plan. My brothers and I climbed into the back seat, my mother settled in beside him and the road decided the rest. A family friend, Gordon, often came along. Years later he told me what those trips had meant to him.

"Your dad never drove without making it fun," he said. "We never knew where we might go or what we might do."

That was precisely the charm. One relative called it "crop checking," a rural expression for drifting about the countryside with one's eyes open. We might go east to see how construction was advancing on the new Trans-Canada Highway over Rogers Pass. As each section opened, ordinary motorists gained views of mountains and glaciers that had once belonged mostly to railway workers. My father, a Canadian Pacific locomotive engineer, seemed to know every curve, grade, siding and story. Passing trains were greeted as though we had a duty to acknowledge them.

Other Sundays carried us up Mount Revelstoke, through the 21 switchbacks to the alpine meadows. The car worked hard; we children worked harder at appearing patient. Then the forest would loosen, the air would sharpen and the meadows would spread ahead of us with their wind, sun-warmed flowers and huckleberries. We returned home purple-fingered, sleepy and faintly scratched, with no accomplishment to report except having gone.

Sometimes we drove "down south" to Arrowhead, a village at the head of Upper Arrow Lake that now lies beneath a reservoir. To reach it, we crossed the Columbia River on reaction ferries – unpowered barges that used cable, current and a modest understanding of physics to move themselves from shore to shore. I did not then think of them as historic. They were simply part of the day's entertainment, as marvellous as cherries bought in the Okanagan or a roadside bouquet gathered for our Mother.

Looking back, I see that those drives were an education disguised as idleness. They taught geography by repetition, history by anecdote and family affection by proximity. We learned where the ceremonial Last Spike had been driven, where the railway entered the pass, where the highway was changing the province and which bend in the road might produce a view worth stopping for. More importantly, we learned that a shared journey did not need to justify itself by becoming efficient.

That may be the hardest part to recover. Modern driving is crowded by haste, suspicion, fuel prices, safety campaigns and the uneasy knowledge that unnecessary mileage is not a neutral pleasure. Those concerns are real. Yet something is lost when every trip must be defended as practical. Roads do not exist only to move labour and freight. They also connect people to place and to one another.

An elderly friend once told me, still indignant years later, of being stopped by the RCMP on the Yellowhead Highway and instructed to go faster. "Can you imagine?" he said. "They didn't have enough to do but tell people that?" His outrage was comic but it contained a principle. A country worth crossing is also worth seeing.

The Sunday drive did not vanish all at once. It was crowded out by busier calendars, faster traffic, more anxious habits and perhaps by our embarrassment at pleasures that appear unproductive. But I think it can still be practised, even modestly. Take the long way home. Visit a place you already know. Go slowly enough to notice what has changed since last month. Bring someone whose company matters.

Canada is a remarkable place in which to live. It should not be consumed only through windscreens at highway speed. It deserves to be seen slowly, spoken about while being seen and carried home in memory.

Tom W. Parkin lives in Nanaimo, B.C.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at tgam.ca/essayguide.

# Beck

FROM A12

### REDUCE SYRUP PUMPS

One pump of flavoured syrup adds about fivegrams of sugar and 20 calories. Ask the barista to reduce the number of syrup pumps. If ordering through an app, Starbucks, Tim Hortons and Second Cup allow you to customize the number of syrup pumps or flavour shots.

### DOWNSIZE THE TRIMMINGS

To cut back on sugar and calories, skip the whipped cream topping. You can also adjust the amount of flavoured cold foam in Starbucks cold brew drinks.

### CHOOSE LOWER SUGAR DRINKS

Iced tea is a refreshing summer drink with little or no added sugar. Starbucks and Second Cup both offer unsweetened iced tea.

You can also reduce the sugar in Starbucks Iced Black Tea Lemonade by ordering it with light or no lemonade.

Second Cup's small sweetened Brewed Iced Tea contains seven grams of sugar, substantially less than many other summer drink offerings.

### READ NUTRITION INFORMATION

To know what's in your summer drink and make a more informed choice, check company websites or mobile apps for nutrition information before you order.

Leslie Beck, a Toronto-based private practice dietitian, is director of food and nutrition at Medcan.

### TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 |

### TODAY'S KENKEN SOLUTION

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6× 2 | 5− 6 | 1 | 300× 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 72× 4 | 60× 2 | 6 | 5 | 5+ 1 |
| 5− 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2÷ 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 150× 2 | 5 | 3+ 1 | 4 | 2÷ 3 |
| 1− 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5− 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 8+ 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 2 |

### WORLD FORECAST

| | TODAY | TOMORROW | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|
| AMSTERDAM | 32/19 PC | 30/20 SH | 25/18 S |
| ATHENS | 34/25 S | 35/26 S | 35/27 S |
| BANGKOK | 33/26 T | 31/27 R | 32/27 T |
| BEIJING | 34/24 T | 33/25 T | 34/27 S |
| BERLIN | 29/20 S | 32/21 SH | 31/21 S |
| BRUSSELS | 35/22 PC | 32/20 SH | 28/15 S |
| COPENHAGEN | 22/17 PC | 24/19 PC | 27/18 SH |
| FRANKFURT | 34/19 T | 35/21 S | 32/21 S |
| HONG KONG | 26/25 T | 27/25 R | 28/26 SH |
| JERUSALEM | 34/21 S | 33/20 S | 32/20 S |
| LAS VEGAS | 45/30 S | 44/30 S | 44/31 S |
| LONDON | 31/21 S | 29/18 SH | 26/16 S |
| LOS ANGELES | 34/21 S | 33/20 S | 32/21 S |
| MADRID | 32/21 PC | 33/22 S | 35/22 S |
| MIAMI | 33/26 R | 33/25 T | 33/27 T |
| MOSCOW | 25/17 PC | 26/17 PC | 27/20 PC |
| NEW DELHI | 33/27 T | 32/27 T | 32/26 T |
| NEW YORK | 27/19 T | 28/22 PC | 27/23 T |
| NICE | 31/26 S | 31/26 PC | 31/26 S |
| ORLANDO | 31/24 T | 32/24 T | 33/25 SH |
| PARIS | 37/23 PC | 33/21 S | 30/17 S |
| PHOENIX | 45/33 S | 43/33 T | 42/33 T |
| ROME | 36/24 PC | 37/24 S | 37/24 S |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 19/13 S | 18/14 S | 18/13 PC |
| SEOUL | 36/28 SH | 36/28 S | 36/28 SH |
| SINGAPORE | 32/27 T | 31/27 T | 32/25 T |
| SYDNEY | 21/8 SH | 19/7 S | 18/7 S |
| TOKYO | 27/22 C | 28/23 PC | 30/25 PC |
| WASHINGTON | 31/23 SH | 30/22 PC | 31/24 PC |

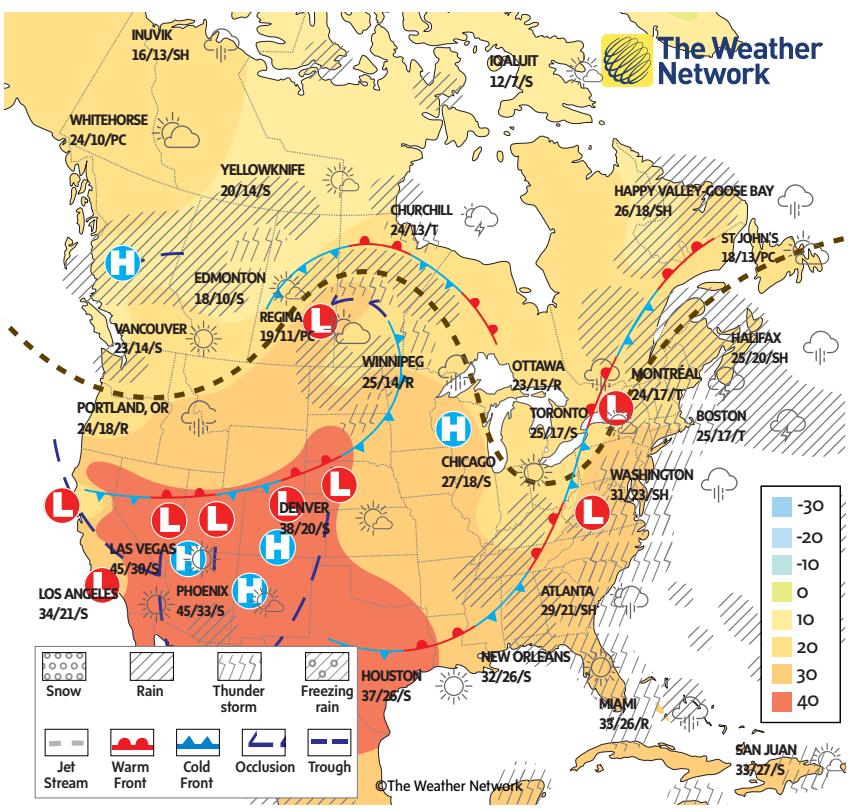
### NATIONAL FORECAST

| | TODAY | TOMORROW | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|
| BANFF | 18/5 PC | 22/7 PC | 24/8 PC |
| BARRIE | 24/12 S | 28/15 S | 27/18 T |
| BRANDON | 21/11 PC | 21/11 PC | 25/14 S |
| CALGARY | 20/8 PC | 24/13 PC | 27/12 PC |
| CHARLOTTETOWN | 24/21 SH | 24/17 SH | 27/17 S |
| CHICOUTIMI | 21/15 R | 25/15 S | 29/17 S |
| CHURCHILL | 24/13 T | 16/12 C | 18/11 C |
| CORNER BROOK | 27/17 PC | 21/14 R | 18/14 SH |
| CORNWALL | 23/16 SH | 26/17 S | 28/21 T |
| EDMONTON | 18/10 S | 23/15 SH | 23/13 S |
| HALIFAX | 23/19 R | 27/17 PC | 29/17 PC |
| HAMILTON | 25/15 S | 26/18 S | 26/20 T |
| HUNTSVILLE | 24/13 S | 29/16 S | 28/18 S |
| IQALUIT | 12/7 S | 13/6 PC | 10/7 R |
| JASPER | 19/7 PC | 22/9 PC | 25/10 PC |
| KELOWNA | 26/11 S | 30/14 S | 33/17 S |
| KINGSTON | 25/17 PC | 25/19 S | 26/21 T |
| LONDON | 26/14 S | 29/17 S | 28/20 T |
| MONTRÉAL | 24/18 R | 27/18 S | 28/20 PC |
| NIAGARA FALLS | 25/16 PC | 27/19 S | 26/21 T |
| NORTH BAY | 24/13 S | 26/16 S | 28/17 S |
| OTTAWA | 24/15 SH | 27/17 S | 27/20 PC |
| PRINCE GEORGE | 22/10 S | 25/11 PC | 26/12 PC |
| PETERBOROUGH | 25/14 S | 28/15 S | 26/19 T |
| QUÉBEC | 23/17 R | 26/16 S | 27/18 S |
| REGINA | 19/11 PC | 22/12 S | 27/14 PC |
| SASKATOON | 18/10 C | 22/14 S | 25/12 T |
| SAULT STE MARIE | 25/13 S | 26/17 S | 23/15 T |
| SAINT JOHN | 20/16 R | 27/16 S | 24/15 PC |
| SEPT-ÎLES | 19/15 R | 23/15 SH | 21/16 S |
| ST JOHN'S | 17/13 PC | 16/14 C | 21/14 PC |
| SUDBURY | 26/13 S | 27/16 S | 28/17 SH |
| THUNDER BAY | 24/17 SH | 25/13 SH | 24/14 S |
| THOMPSON | 18/11 T | 17/11 SH | 20/11 S |
| TORONTO | 25/17 S | 26/18 S | 24/19 S |
| VAL-D'OR | 24/13 PC | 27/17 S | 25/17 SH |
| VANCOUVER | 23/14 S | 26/16 S | 27/17 S |
| VICTORIA | 24/12 S | 26/13 S | 24/16 S |
| WHISTLER | 25/12 S | 28/14 S | 29/15 S |
| WHITEHORSE | 24/8 S | 24/10 S | 23/10 PC |
| WINNIPEG | 26/13 SH | 20/12 S | 25/16 S |
| YELLOWKNIFE | 20/13 S | 19/11 R | 17/10 T |

### LEGEND

Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

C CLOUDY
FG FOG
FR FREEZING RAIN
HZ HAZE
NA NOT AVAILABLE
PC PARTLY CLOUDY
R RAIN
RS RAIN/SNOW
S SUN
SN SNOW
SF SNOW FLURRIES
SH SHOWERS
T THUNDERSTORMS
W WINDY

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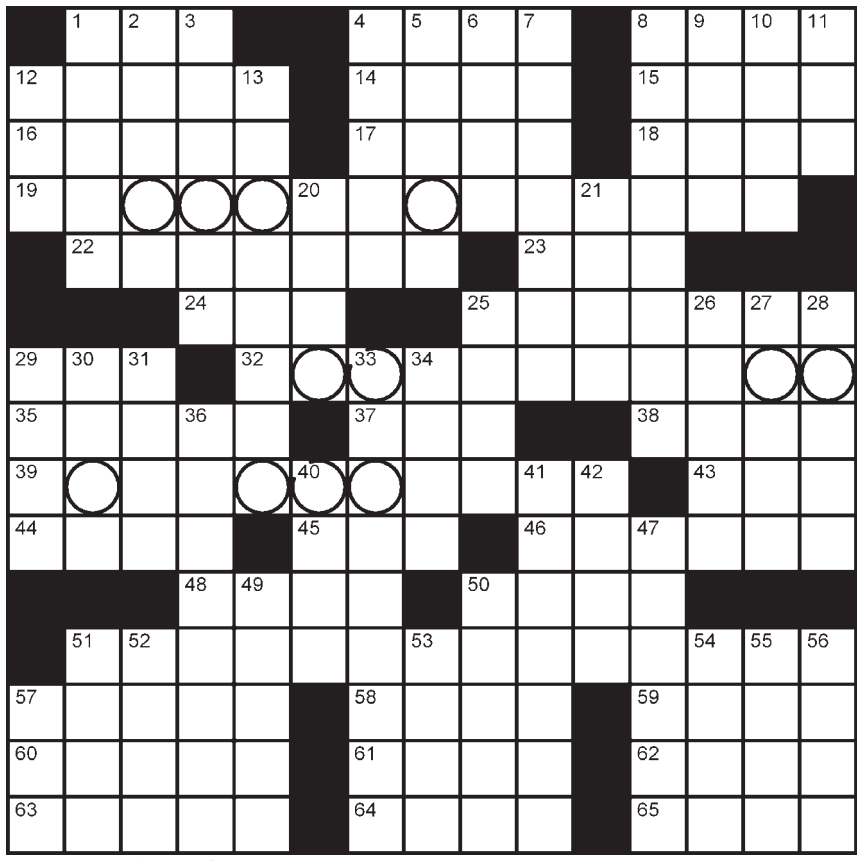
## UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD BREAK IT UP BY EVAN KALISH



EDITED BY DAVID STEINBERG

**ACROSS**

1 Occupied a booth, say
4 Moderate gait
8 Cheek ___ (part of some DNA test kits)
12 Arm muscle, casually
14 Like some trucks traveling with escort vehicles
15 Brick brand from Denmark
16 Prefix for "violet"
17 Helicopter pioneer Sikorsky
18 ___ predator
19 Adapts to stay on track (In this answer, note letters 3-5 and 8)
22 One helping with the heavy lifting?
23 Inquire
24 Rodent that grinds its teeth
25 Cell division
29 Tech company aka Big Blue
32 Mali neighbor (... letters 2-3 and 10-11)
35 Region's plant life
37 Fuel in tankers
38 Packed
39 Toy that makes a big squirt (... letters 2 and 5-7)
43 Founder's title, generally
44 Smelted rocks
45 Vegas spread units: Abbr.
46 Surprisingly enough
48 After-school group
50 Counterfeit
51 Taunt to someone caught red-handed, and a theme hint
57 Officer-to-be
58 ___ Grey tea
59 Spice from nutmeg
60 Like 7 and 17, but not 27
61 Grain grown in paddies
62 Wrought ___
63 Building add-on
64 Vehicle with runners
65 Wacky

**DOWN**

1 Grain towers
2 Go on the fritz
3 Sheer fear
4 "Measure ___, cut once"
5 Thoroughness
6 Febreze target
7 The "T" of ATV
8 Lie down on the job
9 Sobbed
10 Word before a range on a board game 11-Down
11 Storage container
12 Tom Brady, for his final NFL games
13 Where elbows belong on the table?
20 Question to Brutus
21 "Como ___?"
25 Extract everything from
26 Bolognese or marinara
27 Tropical beach locales
28 They're all for one
29 Start to a hypothetical
30 Image problem
31 Sulk
33 Sassafras-flavored drinks
34 Some Korean cars
36 1965 Fontella Bass hit that asks "Can't you see that I'm lonely?"
40 2026 NBA finalist
41 Allowed for
42 Smart TV maker
47 Jean Valjean's musical, informally
49 Medical glove material
50 Compel
51 Ball at a hobby shop
52 Norse god called the All-father
53 "Come ___ Away" (Styx classic)
54 Skater Lipinski
55 Biz school field
56 Refuse to admit
57 Pro at making deductions?

## BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

| WEST | EAST |
|---|---|
| ♠ K 10 8 7 6 3 2 | ♠ Q J 9 |
| ♥ A K 3 | ♥ Q 7 |
| ♦ K Q 8 | ♦ A 9 5 |
| ♣ | ♣ K 9 7 5 3 |

| WEST | EAST |
|---|---|
| Ron Rubin | Mike Becker |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♣ |
| 3 ♣ | 3 ♦ |
| 4 ♣ | 4 ♦ |
| 4 NT | 5 ♣ |
| 6 ♦ | 6 ♠ |

Most players – good, bad or indifferent – bid naturally rather than artificially. When they bid hearts, they usually have hearts; when they bid clubs, they usually have clubs; and so on.

But in the top echelons of bridge there are an ever-increasing number of pairs who employ very exotic methods and often bid suits that have nothing to do with their actual holdings in these suits.

One pair in this category who did exceedingly well in national championships during a 15-year period are Ron Rubin and Mike Becker (this writer's brother). They held the East-West cards in the 1978 Vanderbilt team championship and got to six spades as shown.

By way of explanation, and not for instructional purposes, here is what their bids meant:

One Spade: Normal opening bid, but denies more than 16 high-card points.

Two Clubs: Artificial game-forcing bid asking West to describe his distribution.

Three Clubs: I have a void in hearts, diamonds or clubs, and a rather freakish hand.

Three Diamonds: Tell me more.

Four Clubs: The void is in clubs, and my distribution is 7-3-3-0! (The number of steps taken over three diamonds describes West's distribution.)

Four Diamonds: What are your high-card values?

Four Notrump: I have 14 to 16 high-card points and five controls (an ace is two controls, a king one).

Five clubs: Where are your controls located?

Six diamonds: I have controls in all three suits and extra honours in hearts and diamonds. (Had Rubin been weak in any suit, he would have bid five of that suit. Thus, if he had held ♠ AKxxxxx ♥ AJx ♦ Qxx ♣ —, he would have responded five diamonds.)

After Mike Becker, who had made four artificial forcing bids in succession, closed the auction with six spades, he was asked by South what kind of hand West had indicated by his five bids. Becker wrote down that he expected his partner to have: ♠ Kxxxxxx ♥ AKx ♦ KQx ♣ —!

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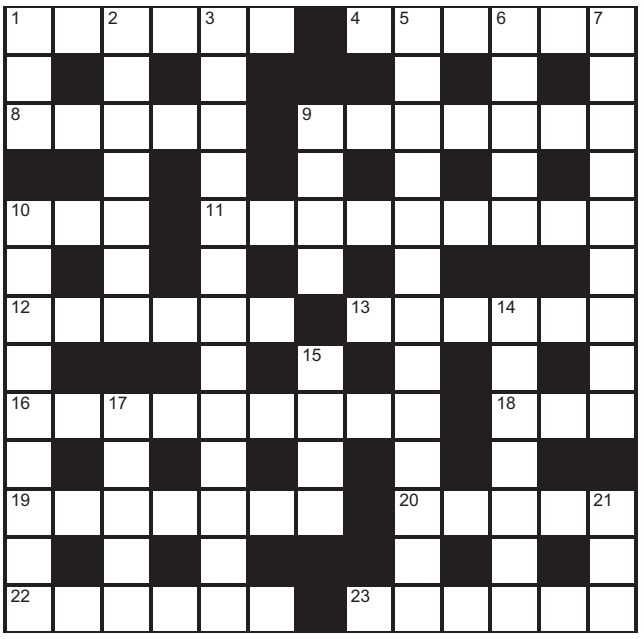
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



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**ACROSS**

1 Well-turned-out fir tree (6)
4 Burning a book ahead of rest (6)
8 Threatening behaviour in the past limiting King George (5)
9 Drinking, losing head, embracing (7)
10 Bird of prey seen in low light (3)
11 To recap, total is invested in horse (9)
12 French composer on time for journey (6)
13 Medium period of time at clubs in US city (6)
16 Confront the clergy? It helps to have a clean look (4,5)
18 Blue stand, with regular pieces missing (3)
19 Aluminium, carbon and helium linked to my former quest for gold? (7)
20 Stage production to start without new artist (5)
22 Pass drinks in middle of speech (6)
23 Bizarre story about European shellfish (6)

**DOWN**

1 Where to find aquatic mammal mainly (3)
2 Symbolic items regarding festivity involving capital of Italy (7)
3 MPs angry over booze found around northern church (5-8)
5 Going by the bar, getting drunk's origin story? (3,4,6)
6 Liberal put in excellent assertion of innocence (5)
7 Success at golf: finally one may be considered keen (5-4)
9 House cartoon father left unfinished (4)
10 Old description of fruit shortage? Not entirely (3-2-4)
14 Seat now broken? Don't worry about it (2,5)
15 Young guy involving daughter in organisation (4)
17 Firm outer covering yielding last source of powder (5)
21 Manner reasonable, but not fine (3)

## SUDOKU DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

**INSTRUCTIONS**
Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | 8 | | 6 | 9 | 7 | | 4 |
| | | | 5 | 7 | | 9 | 8 | |
| 7 | | | 4 | 8 | | 2 | | |
| 9 | 2 | | | | 4 | 8 | 7 | |
| | | | 3 | 9 | 8 | | | |
| | 8 | 5 | 7 | | | | 9 | 6 |
| | | 9 | | 2 | 6 | | | 7 |
| | 7 | 4 | | 3 | 5 | | | |
| 6 | | 2 | 9 | 4 | | 5 | | 8 |

8/3

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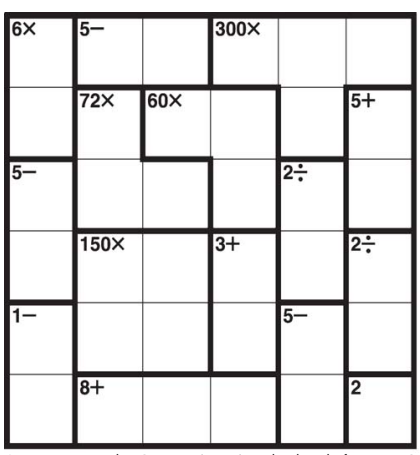
## KENKEN



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**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.

## SOLUTIONS

FRIDAY'S UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

FRIDAY'S CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Solutions to today's Sudoku and Kenken can be found in the Life & Arts content area of the A section. Crossword solutions will be with tomorrow's puzzles.

# Ceuta looks for answers after border surge

Most of the 60,000 people who entered the tiny Spanish exclave in North Africa have walked back to Morocco

SUMAN NAISHADHAM
CEUTA, SPAIN

**Guardia Civil officers recover the body of a migrant who tried to cross into Ceuta, Spain, on Saturday.** ANTONIO SEMPERE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ceuta over the weekend no longer looked like a city on edge, but residents were still rattled by the events of the week.

Most of the 60,000 migrants who swam, scrambled and later charged into the tiny Spanish exclave in North Africa this week had walked back to Morocco by Sunday, but some stayed on in the hills surrounding the city. Spanish authorities continued searching for bodies in the waters near the stretch of urban beach that tens of thousand of migrants had breached days earlier.

Shops in Ceuta reopened, and the usual blend of residents and tourists in the city of 84,000 were filling the open-air terraces, restaurants and cafés.

At least 72 migrants died, including some who drowned and others who were killed in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier, Spanish authorities said Sunday. Morocco reported 11 deaths on its side of the border, but it wasn't immediately clear if these were in addition to those reported by Spain. The kingdom's authorities blamed misinformation and human traffickers for the breach, adding that they were opening an investigation into the events.

But the city that prides itself on being home to four cultures was still grappling with the aftermath of the border surge, with locals disagreeing on what caused it and who exactly is to blame.

"It's not the young men's fault," said Mohamad Abdelkader Driss, 44, a waiter at a fish restaurant in town. "If you open the border, of course everyone comes in, but the young men aren't to blame. The authorities are responsible."

Some migrants who returned to Morocco described a border that was effectively open and said authorities did little as they watched thousands of people cross.

The unauthorized arrivals on Thursday and Friday of 50,000 to 60,000, mostly young men, swelled Ceuta's population by more than half. Mr. Abdelkader lamented what happened, but said that those who breached the border behaved relatively well.

"It could have been much worse," he said.

The humanitarian crisis caused by the sudden rush of people has reignited a debate around immigration in Europe and beyond. Over the weekend, far-right, anti-immigrant Spanish politicians and well-known right-wing influencers descended on the city, sparking counterprotests that included members of the Spanish city's large Muslim population, many of whom are of Moroccan descent.

Alvise Pérez, a far-right Spanish politician and member of the European Parliament, called on Saturday evening for migrants to be expelled as he faced an angry crowd of rival protesters. Mr. Pérez eventually had to shelter in a bar as residents banged on the windows, until police escorted him away.

Among the counterprotesters on Saturday was 20-year-old Ceuta resident and student Noor Ahmed. She denounced the protest and presence of figures like Mr. Pérez in her city as opportunistic.

"They just want to take advantage of the humanitarian crisis Ceuta is currently experiencing," Ms. Ahmed said.

Santiago Abascal, the leader of the far-right Vox party, visited Ceuta on Sunday, slamming the Spanish government for the surge in migrant arrivals, which he called "an invasion."

"The frontiers of Ceuta and Melilla are the walls of our home and homeland, and they are not being protected by a corrupt and traitorous government," he said.

Pope Leo XIV on Sunday said he was "following with concern the alarming situation in Ceuta, asking God … that solutions of peace, stability and justice may be found."

Migration has been one of Leo's priorities, which he underlined during a recent visit to Spain's Canary Islands, one of Europe's main migrant entry ports.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **WestJet:** Strike could cost company $8-million to $10-million each day, expert says

FROM A1

Striking workers shouted demands for better wages through megaphones as rain poured. Passing drivers honked their horns in support while dropping off travellers.

Meshach Baba, 25, slept on the airport floor after he arrived from Taipei Saturday night and learned his flight to Orlando, Fla., had been cancelled because of the labour dispute. The cancellation was for the last leg of his flight home after he spent three weeks in the Philippines for a wedding, his first solo international trip.

"The trip was still pretty fun, but I'm definitely going to be more cautious about who I'm booking with," he said.

While WestJet rebooked his flight for Sunday afternoon, that trip was also cancelled because of the strike. His next flight, on Delta Air Lines, was scheduled for the next day.

Domestically, Canada's other major airlines are absorbing the surge in demand as travellers attempt to salvage their summer vacation plans.

In an e-mail, Porter Airlines confirmed that bookings have recently increased across its network.

"While flights are already extremely busy, seats are available on many existing flights and we are assessing whether we can add more flights," Porter communications director Brad Cicero said.

Air Canada said most seats on its flights are sold out and it currently has minimal ability to increase capacity.

"Our teams are making every effort to support WestJet passengers and provide available travel options. However, travellers need to be aware that we are in the peak summer period and the August long weekend, representing the busiest weekend of the year," the airline said in an e-mailed statement.

The strike, said John Gradek, a faculty lecturer in supply networks and aviation management at McGill University, reflects a broader reckoning with the relationship flight attendants have with their employer, sparked by significant layoffs at the beginning of the pandemic.

Currently, WestJet's "credit hour" compensation system links cabin crew pay to the length of the flights they work, but is used to pay them for a full range of duties, not just time spent in the air, the company says on its website. The "credit hour" combines flight times, ground duties, delays and other labour into a "single, higher rate of pay" that is then credited across the workday, according to WestJet.

The pay rate ranges between $28.88 and $53.61 for each credit hour. At 80 credit hours a month – considered full-time work – that adds up to between $27,700 and $51,500 a year.

While many airlines maintain this type of compensation structure, Delta Air Lines spearheaded reforms in 2022 when it became the first carrier in North America to pay flight attendants specifically for work done on the ground. American Airlines and Alaska Airlines followed suit with boarding pay of 50 per cent of regular rates.

Mr. Gradek said the "credit hour" structure disproportionately benefits senior employees, while leaving junior ones struggling to make ends meet.

"The junior flight attendants who work three or four flights a day don't get any benefits in that at all. They're in trouble," he said.

On what the dispute will cost WestJet, a private company, Mr. Gradek made the "conservative estimate" that the airline will be out between $8-million to $10-million dollars each day of the strike, as it must absorb the costs of rebooking passengers on competitor flights at premium prices. Still, he noted the airline turned down a loan offer from the federal government of up to $150-million in June to offset surging fuel costs, suggesting its financial health is stable.

As for the potential of the federal government ordering WestJet cabin crew back to work by invoking Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code, Mr. Gradek said that provision has lost its utility.

"That horse has left the barn a long time ago," he said, referring to Air Canada flight attendants' decision to defy the Section 107 order from Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu last summer that directed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to end the work stoppage and order binding arbitration between the airline and the union.

In a statement early Sunday, Ms. Hadju said she was disappointed that no deal could be reached to avoid a disruption at WestJet, but did not say whether the government planned to intervene.

Mr. Gradek suggested the trend of frequent airline labour disputes signals the need for industry to shift.

"They disrupt people's lives. They disrupt the economy, and it's time for us to come up and say, 'Okay, let's come up with a different way of doing business.' "

With reports from Vanmala Subramaniam and The Canadian Press

## **Dental:** Research shows therapists improve outcomes in underserved communities

FROM A1

In 1921, a group of 30 women began training as "dental nurses," with a goal of providing free care to schoolchildren.

Since then, more than 50 countries have adopted the model. In Canada, the focus of dental therapy has been to improve access to oral care specifically for those living in remote communities, many of whom are Indigenous.

Canada currently has only one dental-therapy school program. Graduates of the University of Saskatchewan's two-year program can be employed by the federal or provincial governments, or work in private practice.

As part of a larger push to make oral health more accessible nationally, Health Canada is providing funding to the university to extend its program into the NWT, in partnership with Inuvialuit Regional Corp., an organization that represents Inuit of the Western Arctic. The new program will run partly in the town of Inuvik, and partly in communities under a "learn where you live" model, where students can pursue education in more remote locations.

The scope of dental therapy in Canada was much larger at one time. The National School of Dental Therapy, inspired by the New Zealand model, opened in Fort Smith, NWT, in 1972. (Another one opened the same year in Regina; it closed in 1987.) The Fort Smith school trained practitioners in the territory to deliver services to Northern and isolated parts of the country until it was relocated to Saskatchewan in 1981. In 2011, the federal government cut funding, and the school closed.

Mr. Tennant, who has practised in the territory since 1973, said in his recollection dental therapy was highly effective.

**The University of Saskatchewan's two-year dental-therapy program is currently the only one in Canada.** UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

The dental therapists would work in schools, get to know the children and, because they were paid a salary rather than a fee for service, they could take their time, especially if a child was nervous about treatment.

According to an evaluation of one of the dental-therapy programs that ran in Saskatchewan's schools in the 1970s, it was a success. After six years of receiving care, children required, on average, half the number of fillings they did at the beginning.

If Mr. Tennant was taking note, so were places such as Alaska, which faced similar challenges.

Rochelle Siuvuq Ferry is from Unalakleet, a rural village in northern Alaska. At the age of 16, her front tooth was knocked out in an unexpected collision. To get treatment, she had to fly multiple times to Nome, 240 kilometres away.

That experience sparked her interest in dental care, especially for people in rural communities. After two years of training in New Zealand, she eventually became a dental therapist herself, living and working in rural villages in Alaska for a decade. She saw the difference that dental therapists made in improving oral health outcomes.

Startup programs taught new parents how to care for their children's teeth. More preschoolers were treated, which helped catch early decay. And elders, some of whom had experienced trauma from early dental practices and were initially hesitant, started coming in. Trust grew.

"It makes a huge difference when you have somebody in the community who is consistent. You need consistency," said Ms. Ferry.

But just as its popularity was growing elsewhere, the profession was shrinking in Canada. Today, residents in many remote communities are forced to rely on occasional visits from a travelling dentist, fly great distances, or do without care.

Given Canada's vast size and distribution of rural and remote communities, "we need more dental training in different locations," said Walter Siqueira, the dean of dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan. The NWT program "is a very important first step," he added, "and I hope that in the future this can be expanded."

Anil Menon, president of the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry, agrees that dental therapists can help improve access to oral health care for those in remote, rural, Indigenous and otherwise underserved communities.

The association supports re-establishing and expanding dental-therapy education programs in Canada as a way to improve oral health equity, Dr. Menon said in an e-mail.

Currently, dental therapists are permitted to practice in the territories, parts of B.C. and in Saskatchewan. They are not permitted in Ontario and Quebec, as the profession isn't recognized in those provinces.

The first students in the Inuvik program will graduate around 2030, with five to eight people in a cohort.

Ms. Ferry, who is Iñupiaq, says that she has seen good results in Alaska. Knowing the culture and living in communities helped build trust and long-term relationships with clients and their children over time.

"We're there getting the decay taken care of, getting oral hygiene under control, getting things cleaned up and prepared for the dentist to come in," said Ms. Ferry, who now works on the Tulalip Reservation in Washington State.

Ms. Ferry's observations are backed by research, which has shown that dental therapists are effective in boosting oral health outcomes in underserved communities in Alaska, including among children. One 2018 paper found that, in communities that had more dental-therapy treatment days, children and adults received more preventive care and needed fewer extractions over the 10-year study period.

"What we found was actually astounding," said Donald Chi, professor of oral health sciences in the schools of dentistry and public health at the University of Washington and co-author of the study. Over that 10-year period, "we saw these really significant changes in the treatment patterns, especially those communities that were more heavily served by dental therapists."

Another of his studies, in 2020, found that communities with more dental-therapy treatment days had fewer dental emergencies. That study, based on Alaska Medicaid and electronic health records, found that children, in particular, benefited from dental therapists, as shown in lower emergency dental consultation rates.

Many of the dental therapists in his study came from the same regions in which they worked in Alaska, meaning they had a shared history, language and culture with the clients they were treating.

"When you think about patient-centred care, that was a wonderful aspect of the program," said Dr. Chi, who is also a pediatric dentist.

"Dental therapy isn't a silver bullet," he added, "but it could certainly address some of these large challenges that exist in a lot of rural and isolated communities."

In Inuvik, the Inuvialuit Regional Corp. says it is pleased to see this initiative in the North.

"People in our region are facing very real gaps in access to dental and primary care," said Evelyn Storr, IRC executive director of beneficiary services, in an e-mail. This model, along with a new health centre in Inuvik, "will help train local students in their home region and strengthen the long-term health work force in our communities."

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

# REPORT ON BUSINESS

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AGRICULTURE

## The hot new commodity in farming

Food producers are hungry for fresh technology to boost productivity, but investors are reluctant to bet on the sector

**OLIVIA GRANDY**

Potato farmer Sheldon Wiebe used to rely on visual and scent cues to detect if his product was rotting inside climate-controlled storage bins designed to withstand Prairie temperatures.

But now that his farm in MacGregor, Man., has started testing sensors from Calgary-based Cellar Insights on some bins, the first sign of rot may be a smartphone notification.

With data collection that can detect early signs of mould spores using artificial intelligence, the technology can predict spoilage before Mr. Wiebe's spuds are ruined. This ensures more of his potatoes make it to Simplot Co.'s French fry processing plant, a 12-minute drive east of his farm. Cellar Insights' system also uses the season-long data sets it collects to train its models on Manitoba's drastic climate, which varies considerably between the seasons.

"We're in such a high-risk business and margins are very tight, and any kind of loss creates heartache financially, so good data really helps us to make good decisions," Mr. Wiebe said.

He has access to the early-stage technology through a contract with the Winnipeg-based Enterprise Machine Intelligence and Learning Initiative. EMILI is an industry-led non-profit that helps farmers use new agricultural technology developed by companies around the world.

FARMERS, B2

**Manitoba potato farmer Sheldon Wiebe is using data collection and artificial intelligence that can identify and predict disease in the soil or insect infestation.** MATT HORSEMAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## Turmoil in the Mideast has upended the world's helium supplies. Canada has the resources to help

**LAUREN KRUGEL** CALGARY

An unusual inquiry came recently to the Calgary office of **Avanti Helium Corp.**, an explorer for the ultralight gas used for applications as wide-ranging as party balloons and space exploration.

It was a prospective customer from the Middle East, where a sizable share of the world's helium supply normally originates, reaching out to a provider half a world away.

"Well, that's interesting," Chris Bakker, Avanti's chief executive, recalled thinking. "I never thought I'd be shipping right in their backyard like that."

Turmoil in the oil and natural gas markets may have garnered the most headlines since the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran in late February, but the conflict has also upended helium supplies. Canada has raw resource in the ground to help fill the gap – but industry players say the government lacks the right policies and incentives for them to develop and sell it.

Helium has a wide array of uses, and in almost all cases there is nothing that can act as a substitute. The inert element cools MRI machines, pressurizes rocket components and helps detect leaks in nuclear plants. It's also a vital input in the manufacturing of advanced computer chips, representing an estimated 10 to 15 per cent of global helium demand as the artificial intelligence sector booms.

"And that share is rising pretty fast," said Karen Hui, project co-ordinator with the Asia Pacific Foundation's Canada-Indo-Pacific Critical Minerals Hub. Big Asian players in the chip manufacturing space, such as Taiwan and South Korea, are hugely dependent on Qatari helium, and tend not to keep much in the way of backup supplies, she said.

Helium can be produced alongside natural gas, as is the case in Qatar, which accounted for about one-third of global supplies before Iran hit key infrastructure earlier this year.

HELIUM, B6

## WestJet labour dispute is really a proxy battle between Carney and unions

**STEVEN TUFTS**

OPINION

Canada's air travel sector is facing another labour disruption as 4,400 WestJet flight attendants, represented by CUPE Local 8125, walked off the job on Sunday. In July, the union had voted 99.4 per cent in favour of strike action if negotiations failed.

The strike vote came after an important round of bargaining for the union, which is demanding "ground pay," a new form of compensation that CUPE achieved with strike action against Air Canada last year, to pay flight attendants for work done outside of their time in the air.

WestJet claims that the current contract already had mechanisms to compensate for time that flight attendants put in because of delays, among other duties.

However, CUPE is seeking to harmonize compensation practices across the sector and remove wages from competition.

TUFTS, B6

## Toronto-based pet-food maker considers IPO, next phase of expansion

**SUSAN KRASHINSKY ROBERTSON**
RETAILING REPORTER

At the Toronto offices of Canadian pet-food maker Open Farm, what passes for a guard dog is a miniature Bernedoodle named Ted with a sharp bark and absolutely no bite.

But he's not just the CEO's pet, he's also a client. Ted eats the company's GoodGut probiotic kibble to keep his gastrointestinal issues in check.

And his caretakers point to him as a prime example of how Open Farm continues to sell premium-priced chow, even in an inflationary environment where Canadians are looking for different ways to cut back – including in their own human-food budgets.

"They might cut other categories that are more discretionary, whether treats or supplies, toys, things like that," said Open Farm's chief executive officer, Isaac Langleben.

"But the full diet, that nutritional element, is one that I think, rightly so, people are more reluctant. They're actually willing to pay a bit more."

GROWTH, B6

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPINION
AI data centres are the future. Canada cannot afford to give in to the opposition B4

ENERGY
Michigan Supreme Court orders review of permit for Enbridge oil pipeline B3

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Ahead of talks with the U.S. and EU, China draws 'red lines' around economic policies B3

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How a Halifax single mom built a home after being priced out of the market B9

**COMPANIES**

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## SPORTS

B10-B15

SOCCER After yet another scandal, we need to question why FIFA exists, Cathal Kelly writes B10

BASEBALL Max Scherzer gives his best performance of the year with the trade deadline upon us B10

# The knives are out for the world's oldest bank

Possible takeover of Italy's Monte dei Paschi, founded in 1472, has caused shock waves

BERNHARD WARNER

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena is the world's oldest bank. It has survived the rise and fall of the Medici, regional and world wars, and its own near-death experiences – including a €5.4-billion bailout in 2017 and a derivatives scandal that made the lender a byword for mismanagement.

But under Luigi Lovaglio, the CEO who was recruited by the Italian government in 2022 to engineer a turnaround, Monte dei Paschi has grown into one of Europe's healthiest financial institutions. Now it's a takeover target.

Sitting in Palazzo Salimbeni, the bank's fortresslike 14th-century headquarters in Siena's historic centre, late last month, Mr. Lovaglio reflected on the bank's latest challenge. The Tuscan lender is being pursued by its biggest rival in an increasingly combative contest.

"I'm working around the clock to find the best solution," said Mr. Lovaglio, 70, who survived a bruising board battle this spring to stay on the job.

In June, the ball started rolling when Milan-based Banco BPM proposed a "merger of equals" with Monte dei Paschi. The next day, Intesa Sanpaolo, Italy's biggest bank, announced a hostile €35-billion (US$40 billion) cash-and-shares takeover bid for Monte dei Paschi, which has some €240-billion in assets on its balance sheet.

The Intesa plan is somewhat convoluted. It involves teaming up with Unipol, an Italian insurer, which would acquire roughly half of Monte dei Paschi's branch network – some outposts still operate in tiny Tuscan towns, including on the island of Giglio – cleaving the Siena name off the door. Intesa is after Monte dei Paschi's crown jewels: its Mediobanca investment bank and wealth management unit, and its stake in Generali, a US$77-billion insurer.

Monte dei Paschi acquired those assets last year in a stunning David-taking-over-Goliath bid of its own. Further complicating things, Banco BPM said in a statement Friday that it had terminated merger discussions with Monte dei Paschi, putting the talks in limbo.

"It's definitely got a *Game of Thrones* quality to it," Johann Scholtz, a banking analyst at Morningstar, said of the competing interests lining up for Monte dei Paschi.

While European politicians, regulators and banking officials are fixated on Italian lender UniCredit's swooping in to buy Germany's Commerzbank – a hostile advance that briefly grew into a diplomatic spat between Rome and Berlin – a consolidation frenzy is remaking Italy's domestic banking sector.

Europe's banks are growing at the healthiest clip since before the 2008 global financial crisis, powered by years of high interest rates, a surging stock market and bumper wealth-management fees. But protectionist tendencies remain entrenched in national capitals. That's despite a push by the European Union and Mario Draghi, a former European Central Bank president and an ex-prime minister of Italy, to encourage consolidation across borders and industries. Only then, he argued, can Europe think of building superbanks to better compete with American behemoths like JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs. (JPMorgan is a mergers and acquisitions adviser to Intesa.)

> Europe's banks are growing at the healthiest clip since before the 2008 global financial crisis, powered by years of high interest rates, a surging stock market and bumper wealth-management fees.

Italy has embraced the idea of combining financial institutions.

The prospect of a takeover of Monte dei Paschi, founded in 1472, has sent shock waves through Tuscany. The people of Siena, including the mayor, have come out especially hard against the Intesa bid, fearing it would mean the beginning of the end for their beloved bank.

For ages, the bank has been the region's primary employer and a major backer of local enterprise. Its once-powerful charitable foundation funded social services, community organizations and the arts, a hospital expansion in Siena and the city's famed Palio, a bareback horse race pitting neighbourhoods against one another for winner-take-all bragging rights.

"Monte isn't just a bank. It is history, it's culture and the economy," said Claudio Marignani, a retired Monte dei Paschi employee. In 2012, he founded Sena Civitas, a community organization. He has called for his fellow senesi, as the locals are called, to rally publicly to show their support for Monte dei Paschi's independence.

The Roman Catholic Church, too, has put the dealmakers on notice, saying any tie-up must protect the livelihoods of Italian families. Siena's archdiocese wrote an open letter in July saying it will monitor negotiations, "trusting that even in market matters some degree of justice and charity is to be expected."

Seeing the community rally around the bank is motivating, Mr. Lovaglio said. But ultimately the company's fate lies in the hands of shareholders, the most powerful of which are far from Siena.

The senesi have been here before. Five years ago, the bank was a nationalized lender and on life support. A white-knight deal brokered by Rome fell through. Then in February, 2022, an official in the Mario Draghi government asked Mr. Lovaglio to take the top job.

"When I was asked, I made the decision in five minutes," Mr. Lovaglio said.

Eight months later, he and his team pulled off a €2.5-billion raising of capital that finally put Monte dei Paschi on sure financial footing, lowering Rome's stake from roughly 64 per cent. (It's less than 5 per cent today.) Shares in the bank are up more than 475 per cent since then, far outperforming the broader European banking sector.

Mr. Lovaglio won't tip his hand as to the bank's next move. But the drama playing out around the bank has reinforced his belief that "in order to be in a safe position, to be in a safe harbor, you should be bigger," he said.

As the afternoon wore on, Mr. Lovaglio left his advisers behind for some air. He headed to Siena's Palazzo Pubblico, the stately brick town hall that houses the famous 14th-century frescoes by Ambrogio Lorenzetti depicting the effects of good and bad government.

On one wall, the artist painted an orderly world where the allegorical figures of Justice, Temperance, Prudence, Strength and Peace stand watch. Next to it is a dire landscape. A devil-like figure presides over allegorical baddies, including Discord, War, Fraud and Anger.

Mr. Lovaglio said he was always moved by looking at Lorenzetti's contrasting worldviews, the bleak versus the bright.

"I find this really inspiring and motivating," he said, staring intently as he considered his next move.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

# **Farmers:** Predictive weed control, smart field management among tools being used

FROM B1

Mr. Wiebe's 10,000 acre, 18-person operation, which also grows other rotational crops, is one of the initiative's two innovation farms that test new technology at scale.

Elsewhere in the province and in the country, forward-looking farmers are embracing tools such as predictive weed control and smart field management systems. These technologies are part of a wave of digital tools helping Canadian farms play catch-up with the productivity gains of global competitors. For many producers, however, an unclear return on investment, gaps in digital literacy and poor cell service on rural farms make the leap feel impractical.

On one potato field, through EMILI, Mr. Wiebe's team is testing out an Israeli-founded, AI-powered irrigation system called Autonomous Pivot. It uses a ground-penetrating radar to more precisely measure soil moisture and detect disease or insect issues. In other words, it's a smart assistant that can prescribe watering before stress on the crop occurs. Without the system, the team has to conduct weekly moisture tests of hand-dug soil samples.

The value of these technologies comes down to the high-quality, transferable data they collect, and what they can use that data to identify or predict. For Mr. Wiebe, the tech can help alleviate the typically time-consuming troubleshooting process.

He gives the example of a rot issue in storage, and how the collected data could help locate where it's coming from in the field. This kind of tracking helps to "connect all the dots across the farm," he said.

While producers like Mr. Wiebe are hungry for new technology to improve productivity, investors are reluctant to bet on the ag-tech sector. Investment in domestic agri-food companies, including those aimed at primary agriculture (the stage where crops are grown), has dwindled as generalist investors have come to view food production as fragmented, confusing and high-risk, said RBC lead researcher on the industry, Lisa Ashton.

According to a February report by Ms. Ashton, overall investment in these companies is lower today than it was a decade ago, with deals down 29 per cent, and the value of those deals down 32 per cent.

A 2025 report from the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute said industry discussions are often focused on potential benefits of new tech, without addressing on-farm realities to win over pragmatic producers. Larger grain, oilseed, dairy and controlled-environment operations, such as greenhouses, are leading in digital agriculture adoption, while smaller farms lag behind, the report said.

**Above: Sheldon Wiebe walks through one of his potato fields toward an irrigation pivot near MacGregor, Man.**

**Right: Cellar Insights, a piece of AI tech used to detect rot, sits stationed in a warehouse bin beside 15 million pounds of potatoes.**

PHOTOS BY MATT HORSEMAN/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Players such as EMILI are trying to change that. Along with Farm Credit Canada, the initiative founded AIVA, a network for farmers to test early-stage ag-tech products to reduce business risk.

"It is hard to distinguish what is fact and what is fiction and what is aspiration," EMILI chief executive officer Jacqueline Keena said. "… By the time a farmer is adopting a technology, and if it's been through Innovation Farms, we can say with confidence this has been our experience, this is how it's worked for us."

This month, FCC also released a report on AI adoption in Canadian agriculture, which found the sector is falling behind other industries in Canada.

FCC vice-president of AgExpert and Innovation Hub Mohamad Yaghi emphasized the potential value that widespread digitalization could add to the industry: "At the end of the day, an anecdote is a data point."

The Crown corporation has recently been pushing hard for increased capital investment in innovation across Canadian agriculture and food.

The hope, Ms. Keena said, is that testing can bring down the cost of new technologies over time as farmers are forced to operate in an "increasingly lean way." As competitors such as Brazil and Australia have gained market share, Canada's position in global agriculture and agri-food trade slipped to seventh from fifth place as of February, 2025, according to another RBC report.

Solutions are growing to address obstacles to adoption, such as the lack of access to reliable cell service and high-speed internet in isolated farming areas.

For example, equipment-provider John Deere has partnered with SpaceX's Starlink network on a product called JDLink Boost, which became available in Canada last year.

The satellite-based connectivity tool mounts directly on equipment and ensures high-speed internet access to run smart technology.

Although best known for its green and yellow tractors, John Deere also offers data collection and farm management software that is compatible with other brands. This kind of software tracks and records inputs, field boundaries, yield and weather conditions.

Rick Rutherford has recognized the utility of such data for quite some time. He's the producer heading up EMILI's other innovation farm near Grosse Isle, Man., and takes pride in the data his grain, pulse and oilseed operation has amassed over the last 14 years. "The collection of the data is the cornerstone of everything we do," he said.

The data sets made him a strong candidate to test out Geco, a predictive weed control system created in Vancouver. It uses AI, satellite imagery, crop-growth modelling and a historical records from fields to develop maps of weed patterns.

It can then predict where weeds will sprout the following season, and generate "prescriptions" for spray and seeding rates to target stubborn patches. This allows Mr. Rutherford and his team to spot-target the application of herbicides, as compared to the the traditional, less precise method of spraying uniformly across the field.

In using less chemicals, Mr. Rutherford said the technology is "making our farm more environmentally cautious." During the spring, Geco can also provide guidance on where farmers should plant seeds more densely to crowd out weeds for chemical-free management.

Mr. Rutherford noted that no tech, including Geco, is a silver bullet for improved productivity or sustainability, but an AI-powered toolkit does provide an advantage. "I haven't seen one yet that's come through EMILI that revolutionizes our whole farm. It just applies another tool," he said.

Thought leaders, including venture capitalist and *Dragons' Den* star Arlene Dickinson, have called for Canada to meet the moment on agri-food. Ms. Dickinson has invested in agri-food companies across supply chain steps. When it comes to attracting investment, Mr. Rutherford points out that the more data available on a crop, the more value it has because of factors such as traceability.

"There is a quite a movement now for people to know where their food comes from and to be able to go back and say: 'Yes, this came from a field in Grosse Isle, Manitoba, and these are the inputs that were used on that field,' " he explained.

For many, accessing the benefits of predictive technology feels still on the horizon.

Taylor Phillips, chief technology officer at Maverick Ag, a Saskatoon-based risk-management consultancy, guides farmers through the digitalization process. He said "clean, calibrated and accessible data," are the ingredients needed to get high-quality results from new tools, but many farmers don't know where to start.

He has been coaching producers to develop AI literacy with off-the-shelf tools, such as Google's Gemini ecosystem. He helps them understand how to consolidate years worth of their farm data in one place, often by using AI to compile scattered spreadsheets on various programs.

One of Mr. Phillips's clients, Taylor Wallace, who operates a 21,000-acre grain and pulse farm near Unity, Sask., has begun incorporating AI into his team's daily routines.

Mr. Wallace is aware he has merely skimmed the surface of what's possible with this emerging wave of tech. With high-quality crop data, he hopes his farm will soon be able to tap into the full potential of what predictive tools promise: insights that shift a farmer's role from reactive to proactive.

Mr. Phillips's value proposition to his clients frames their data as a precious resource.

"They don't realize that one of the most valuable commodities that they're growing on their farm isn't just the grain, but it's the data itself, and the value inside of those data points for making different decisions," he said.

With reports from Kate Helmore

# China draws ‘red lines’ around its economic model ahead of EU, U.S. trade talks

CLAIRE FU
KEVIN YAO
LIANGPING GAO

China is energetically defending its economic policy mix that favours advanced industries over consumption, adopting a posture analysts see as demonstrating increasing confidence ahead of looming trade talks with Europe and the United States.

President Xi Jinping and U.S. counterpart Donald Trump plan more face-to-face meetings this year, while Brussels has set an October deadline for Beijing to settle disputes as worries grow over China’s trillion-dollar-plus trade surplus.

Western countries frame China’s policies as mercantilist and opposing global trade rules, saying its priority for producers over households pushes cheaper goods into global markets, hollowing out industry in countries seeking more balanced growth.

But a meeting of top Communist Party leaders signalled policy continuity on Thursday, calling for targeted support rather than the consumer-focused stimulus and structural changes long urged by China’s trading partners and many economists.

Days earlier, the Commerce Ministry accused the West of protectionism in a position paper on “so-called industrial overcapacity” that rejected the notion as rooted in “logical flaws” and “ulterior motives”.

The ruling Communist Party’s flagship theoretical journal, Qiushi, also defended China’s low consumption in July, as a “historically justified” outcome of the investment-led, catch-up development model.

Such messages stop short of telling the West that China will not change course, said Xu Tianchen, a senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit, but send two posturing signals.

“The first is about hoping others understand where it comes from. A better mutual understanding helps in negotiations,” Mr. Xu said. “The second is about drawing a red line.”

The Commerce Ministry paper “made clear that China doesn’t accept discriminatory measures against its firms and products,” he added.

China says its model reflects the needs of a country still converging with advanced economies. Its products are not only cheaper, but increasingly better, while its tech and science investments can benefit the entire world.

Last month, Premier Li Qiang countered warnings of a “China shock 2.0”, or a scenario in which Chinese firms crowd out Western competitors in advanced manufacturing, portraying it as “China opportunity 2.0” for the global economy.

This is a “narrative that is falling flat in countries at the receiving end of those exports”, said Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University and a former China director at the International Monetary Fund.

“China’s heavy dependence on exports to power its own growth in light of weak domestic demand is going to make it difficult to argue that Chinese exports are a gift to consumers worldwide.”

Washington’s effort to boost pressure on China through tariffs of more than 100 per cent last year floundered as Beijing used its dominant position in production of rare earths, key for a wide range of global industries, to regain strategic ground.

Now the European Union, whose trade deficit with China averaged US$1-billion a day last year, is pursuing its own industrial and domestic procurement policies to defend its market.

This month, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz criticized Beijing for keeping its currency undervalued.

But the latest statements from China suggest Beijing’s confidence is growing that it can soften trade disputes without making significant concessions.

“The U.S. tariff episode appears to have supplied a template of managed engagement that Beijing is also applying to Europe – essentially buying time,” said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief Asia-Pacific economist at Natixis.

“Beijing’s messaging on its economic model does come across as more confident and tightly framed than a year or two ago,” she added.

To be sure, Beijing has slowed investment this year, primarily by tightening scrutiny on local government spending, which economists blame for driving overcapacity in manufacturing and infrastructure.

Officials publicly recognize a supply-demand “contradiction” and pledge to end deflationary price wars among producers battling for market share at the expense of profits.

They often promise to boost consumer demand, even without major structural reform plans.

“Historical justification does not mean long-term justification” of weak consumption, the Qiushi article said, adding that a change in the model was “necessary”.

Analysts say this means China recognizes imbalances but wants to move carefully, fearing disruptive changes.

But a growing body of international research warns Beijing’s policies threaten both the global economy and its own.

For nearly 60 per cent of Chinese firms, their “market share gains can be explained by subsidies received”, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a recent report.

A Bank of Italy paper estimated that domestic factors, such as weak consumption and overcapacity, have driven about 75 per cent of Chinese export growth.

A McKinsey Global Institute report said China is adding three times more productive assets each year than Europe and the United States combined, while its capital returns are roughly 40 per cent lower.

“Chinese arguments are more frequent and formal now because the evidence of systemic domestic economic problems leading to spillovers on the rest of the world is mounting even faster,” said Daniel Rosen, co-founder of researcher Rhodium Group.

REUTERS

## OPEC+ AGREES SEPTEMBER OIL HIKE, COMPLETING ROLLBACK OF VOLUNTARY CUTS

LONDON OPEC+ approved an oil production quota increase on Sunday of around 188,000 barrels a day from September, the producer group said, in a move that completes the unwinding of a layer of voluntary output cuts.

Due to export disruptions from the Gulf, Russia and Kazakhstan caused by the Iran and Ukraine wars, successive monthly OPEC+ hikes over most of this year have remained largely on paper with little impact on the market.

The September increase agreed by core OPEC+ members – Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman – finishes the phased rollback of a 1.65 million b/d supply cut originally agreed in 2023, when the group still included the United Arab Emirates, which left OPEC in May.

The seven members will hold their next meeting on Sept. 6. REUTERS

**Enbridge’s Mackinaw facility in Mackinaw City, Mich., services the company’s existing underwater Line 5 pipeline and its planned replacement tunnel through the Straits of Mackinac between lakes Michigan and Huron.** CARLOS OSORIO/REUTERS

# Michigan Supreme Court orders review of Enbridge pipeline under Great Lakes

## Part of Line 5 runs for six kilometres along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac

JEFFREY COLLINS

The Michigan Supreme Court has ordered state regulators to reconsider a key permit that allowed a planned tunnel to carry an oil pipeline under part of the Great Lakes to move forward.

The 6-1 decision further clouds the future of the 73-year-old pipeline owned by Canadian energy transportation company **Enbridge Inc.** that carries petroleum from Superior, Wis., to Sarnia, Ont.

The part of the pipeline in question, called Line 5, runs for six kilometres along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac where Lakes Huron and Michigan meet.

Enbridge wants to bury the pipeline in a tunnel under the straits. Environmentalists and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer want to move the pipeline away from the waterway altogether, saying a spill would be catastrophic to the Great Lakes and surrounding area.

The Michigan Public Service Commission granted a permit to build the tunnel in 2023. Four Michigan tribal nations along with several environmental groups sued.

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled Friday that when they granted the permit, regulators failed to consider if the tunnel project will extend the lifetime of the pipeline, resulting in more harm to the environment.

The ruling also said the Public Service Commission wasn’t consistent when it compared alternatives to the pipeline like using trucks or trains to move the oil and didn’t assess how the tunnel might impact fishing, boating and other public trust rights on the Great Lakes.

Opponents of the pipeline say this type of project has never been done anywhere else and would turn the Straits of Mackinac, which is a sacred site for the Indigenous Anishinaabe tribes, into a construction site for years.

“Whether Line 5 is suspended in the water or encased in a tunnel, it is simply a terrible idea to pump more than half a million barrels of oil every day through the middle of the Great Lakes,” attorney David Gover with the Native American Rights Fund said in a statement.

Enbridge is reviewing its legal options after the ruling and said it is disappointed for another delay in a project that has been under review for nearly a decade and would “enhance environmental protection of the Great Lakes while maintaining critical energy reliability for the region,” spokesman Ryan Duffy said in a statement.

Enbridge proposed the pipeline tunnel nearly a decade ago around the time a ship anchor dented part of the line. The company said the tunnel would massively reduce the possibility of an oil spill, but environmentalists said building the tunnel under the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac would cause noise, vibrations and permanent environmental damage.

In a different set of court cases, Ms. Whitmer and other state officials have been trying since 2020 to shut down the pipeline under the straits.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# OPINION & ANALYSIS

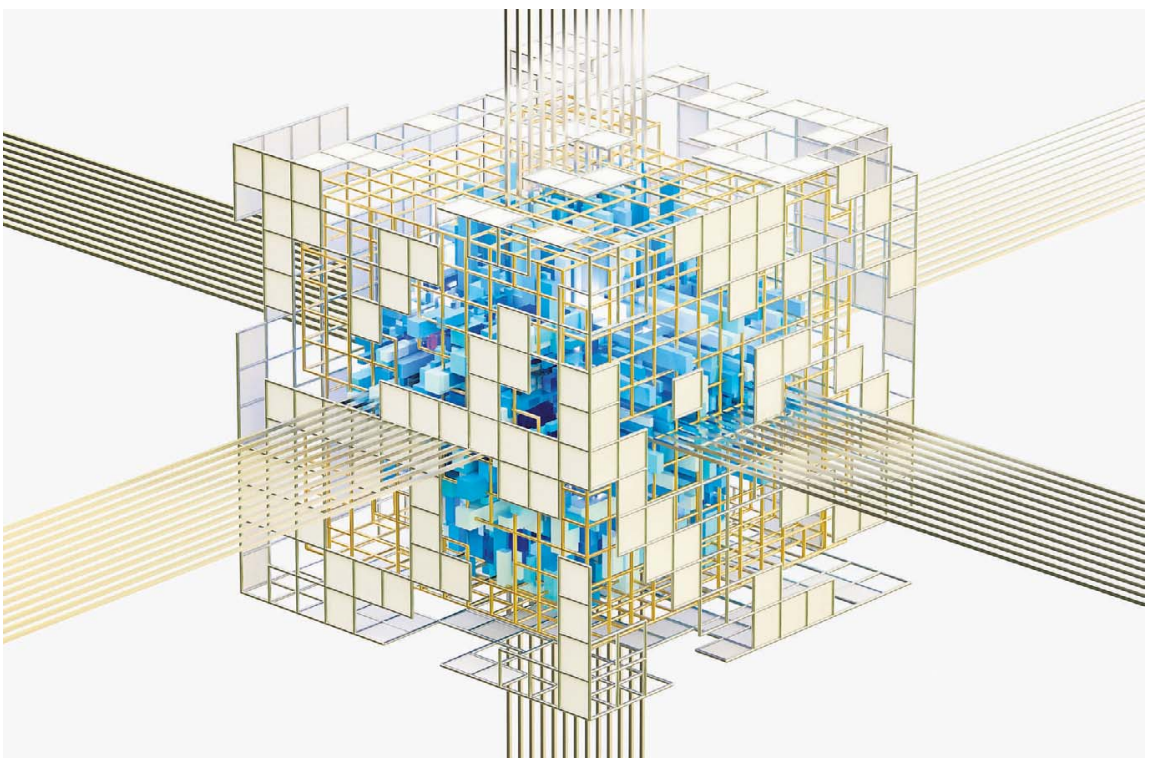
PROSPERITY'S PATH

# AI data centres are the future. Canada must find some way to overcome the backlash

## But administrators should be required to provide their own power or to finance equivalent grid capacity

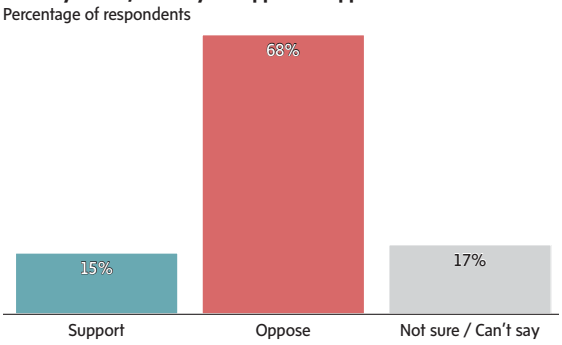
KEVIN YIN

OPINION



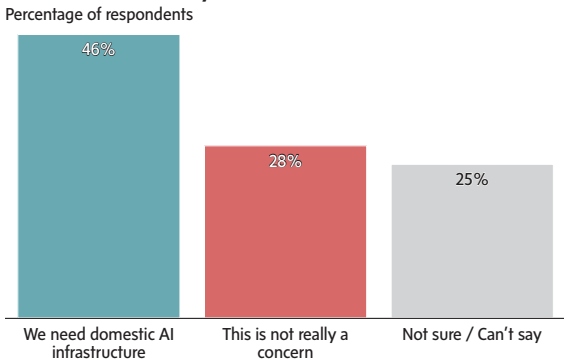
iSTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

**If a large AI data centre was proposed within a few blocks of where you live, would you support or oppose it?**
Percentage of respondents




THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: ANGUS REID INSTITUTE

**Which comes closer to your own view?**
Percentage of respondents

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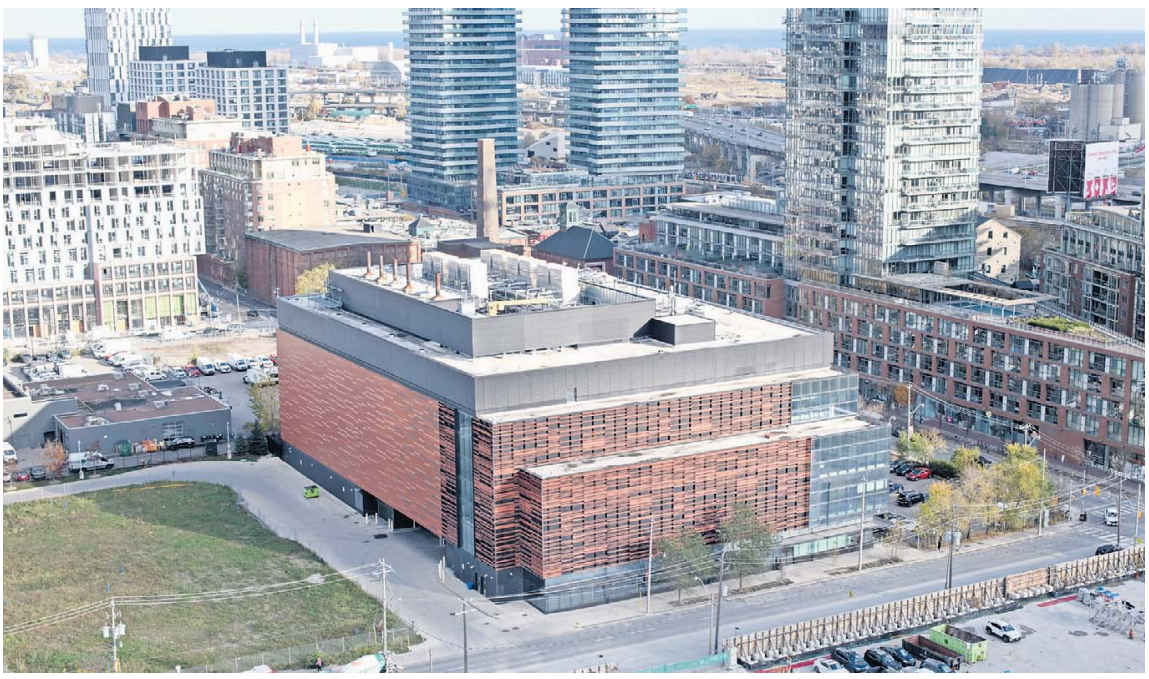

**The Equinix data centre is pictured in downtown Toronto. Polling this year from the Angus Reid Institute suggests Canadians broadly see the need for domestic AI infrastructure.** FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

For anyone not whittling down Claude tokens every day, the significance of artificial-intelligence computational resources can seem remote.

But the fact is that AI and the hardware that supports it are quickly becoming general-purpose inputs into science, business, national defence and health care. The productivity gains are already showing up as more accurate health-risk detection in hospitals, faster software development and a lower barrier to solving complex research problems. Canadians need dependable infrastructure to store, process and protect the data behind those uses, and the expertise to develop and use these tools.

More than attracting data-centre investment, the objective is to secure reliable access to computing power, greater jurisdiction over data, and stronger domestic capabilities in data centre development and operation.

Normally economists care more about the location of capital than its ownership because a factory must be located where production occurs. But data centres are different. Computational services can often be supplied from abroad, while many of the economic benefits we care about come from learning how to build, manage and improve them (what economists call an "innovation spillover"). Much like oil, they are also becoming a strategic chokepoint, because storage and computation are increasingly used across the entire economy.

The Trump administration's recent decision to restrict access to Anthropic's frontier AI models drives home the strategic point. Just as we have seen how Iran can cripple energy markets by blocking the Strait of Hormuz, the United States has shown that it is willing and able to cut off access to AI tools when its interests dictate.

As AI becomes embedded in the basic functions of our society, Canada cannot afford to allow essential services or the accompanying domestic innovation to depend entirely on the decisions of foreign governments. While we cannot control how the U.S. governs access to its AI models, we must do what we can to reduce our dependence.

Still, data centres impose real costs, and proposed projects have understandably faced backlash across Canada. They raise energy prices for local residents, create noise and provide far fewer permanent jobs than many other large capital projects. The profits are hard to tax, especially when the value being produced is tied to intellectual property held elsewhere. And the broader benefits that could otherwise motivate public support – greater technological capability and national resilience – have not been adequately realized thus far.

Polling this year from the Angus Reid Institute suggests Canadians broadly see the need for domestic AI infrastructure. But more than two-thirds oppose having it built near their own communities. The problem is fundamentally about externalities: the costs are local, while the potential benefits are both diffuse and only partially captured by Canadians.

Just as we do not expect private companies to consider national needs in their production decisions, we cannot reasonably expect individuals to be happy paying higher electricity bills for what are at present only weak innovation and sovereignty gains. The question is, how do we address this misalignment of incentives to get those data centres built?

To start, our policy framework needs to ensure that Canadians actually receive the strategic and innovative benefits that justify data centre construction in the first place.

Since these are externalities, they are not naturally delivered by standard foreign investment agreements and a more active industrial policy is justified. Federal tax credits and subsidies should favour projects with Canadian-headquartered ownership stakes, joint ventures with Canadian firms, or enforceable commitments to allocate priority compute to Canadian researchers, startups and public institutions.

Canada should continue to welcome global firms that want to build here. But it should also ask what Canadian workers, companies and institutions learn from these projects, and how much control over our data and processing we have in times of geopolitical disruption.

The objection that conditions on ownership and participation will deter foreign investment is far weaker here than in other sectors. This is because the benefit Canada seeks from data centres is different from that of a factory – foreign-owned factories can still create substantial domestic employment and production. If the reasons for supporting data centres are instead primarily to boost our innovative capacity and secure sovereignty over our computational resources, then domestic participation is not a nice-to-have. It is itself the point.

Next, local residents should not have to pay higher electricity bills for infrastructure that they are not using directly and that does not employ many of them.

Data centre owners should be required either to provide their own power or to finance equivalent new supply and grid capacity. This supply matching would need to occur at a reasonably high frequency – it should match what the data centre uses at all times. Matching total electricity use over a month or year is not enough if residents still have to pay much more during peak-demand hours. The approval process needs to be strict enough to ensure that tech companies cannot avoid these requirements through clever accounting.

Versions of this idea are already emerging as a response to rising data centre electricity demand, and they should become the baseline. As Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew's recent rejection of the province's data centre proposal (which would have had its own natural gas turbines) shows, "bring-your-own-power" does not eliminate all opposition. But it would change the bargain so that communities are not being asked to subsidize the electricity needs of distant users.

Finally, host communities need to become visible fiscal winners.

Municipalities should not be forced into bidding wars against one another by offering local tax breaks to attract data centres. If subsidies or tax credits are justified, they should come from the federal government and be available on a consistent national basis. This way, local governments can keep the full property-tax base created by the data centre and, if necessary, receive additional federal transfers for public goods conditional on accepting large projects. It is easier to tolerate a bit of noise when you know that it is paying for roads and libraries.

Canada also needs a more credible approach to multinational profit-shifting because existing solutions are imperfect. Alberta's 2 per cent levy on computer hardware is easy to administer but commits two cardinal sins of efficient taxation: It taxes intermediate inputs and singles out one industry.

Some legal experts have argued formula-based profit apportionment could better divide IP-based tax revenue across jurisdictions where companies operate, but this would require careful design and international co-operation. Making progress on these issues would help ensure that communities share more visibly in the benefits of hosting data centres.

The backlash against data centres is understandable. But the answer is not to block construction. It is to design a better bargain.

Kevin Yin is a contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail and an economics doctoral candidate at the University of California, Berkeley.

# The high-stakes battle for invisible real estate in space

## Radio spectrum cannot be legally owned, but has become more valuable as groups jostle for more control over it

PETER COY

Elon Musk's SpaceX is working to grab invisible real estate: the radio spectrum that carries wireless signals. Its competitors are doing the same. That has set off a race that resembles the land rushes of the 19th century, except in the air.

Radio spectrum cannot be legally owned. But as it has become more valuable, companies and governments have been jostling to control more of it. On Earth, competitors have heavily invested in staking out the rights to use broader swaths of airwaves. And in space, China and other countries have suggested they may want more say over who uses which spectrum to communicate with Earth.

In the United States, licences to use specific spectrum bands serve as pseudo property rights. The Federal Communications Commission allows them to be bought, sold and leased (with its approval), and it renews them almost automatically, absent misconduct. USTelecom, a telecommunications trade group, told a federal court that the industry had sunk more than US$230-billion into FCC auctions as well as US$700-billion into networks on the assumption it was buying something close to property.

Shares of phone and cable companies have been under pressure in recent months over fears that SpaceX will scoop up more spectrum at an auction next year and use it to compete with them, including by connecting ordinary cellphones directly to satellites.

There is also a race to acquire spectrum used for communications with outer space, where satellite frequencies are managed by the International Telecommunication Union, a branch of the United Nations. The federal government applies for these licences on behalf of U S. companies under a first-come, first-served system. Later entrants can use the same airwaves but must co-ordinate with the incumbent to avoid interfering with it. That system has worked well for SpaceX and other American companies that filed early and in bulk.

**The SpaceX starship lifts off from the SpaceX launch complex in Starbase, Tex., in July for a test flight. Shares of phone and cable companies have been under pressure over fears that SpaceX will scoop up more radio spectrum at an auction next year.** STEVE NESIUS/REUTERS

Much of the rest of the world isn't thrilled with the status quo, seeing the airwaves less as a piece of property and more as a resource to be shared by all under international oversight. That may seem high-minded, but it's also a defensive move against powerful first movers such as SpaceX.

American negotiators are gearing up for a fight at the World Radiocommunication Conference, which will be held in October and November, 2027, in Shanghai – home turf of the powerful Chinese delegation. Late-coming Chinese companies have flooded the ITU with applications for satellite frequencies while insisting on "equitable access" to bands where earlier filings, mostly by American operators, hold priority.

The fight over the commercial exploitation of space goes back decades. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty bars any nation from claiming sovereignty over the moon or other celestial bodies, but it never settled the question of private claims. A 1979 follow-up, the Moon Treaty, tried to declare space the common inheritance of all humanity, but the United States didn't ratify it; nor did any of the other major spacefaring nations. This has created a policy vacuum.

The Trump administration favours treating space more as private property than as shared inheritance. An executive order in President Donald Trump's first term concerning outer space flatly stated that "the United States does not view it as a global commons."

Americans are worried about the European Union's proposed Space Act, which would impose requirements for operating in Europe that appear designed to burden large non-European operators, SpaceX among them. Researchers at the think tank New America note similar protectionist instincts showing up in regulatory frameworks in Canada, Brazil, Japan, India and China.

SpaceX has "a favourable administration in the U.S. with the FCC, but not so much internationally," said Chris Quilty, whose firm tracks the satellite industry's financial statements and regulatory filings. Even with global spectrum rights secured through the ITU, SpaceX needs each country's sign-off to turn on service.

The FCC deserves some of the credit for America's leadership in new wireless services. It requires incumbents to use advanced technology to minimize interference and maximize shared use of spectrum. Clever engineering often solves conflicts.

That modernization push by the FCC, for which SpaceX has lobbied, has made the United States "the envy of the world" in spectrum matters, said David Redl, executive director of the SpaceConnect Association, a trade group for low-Earth-orbit satellite companies Amazon Leo, Iridium, Telesat and Globalstar. He ran the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the federal government's spectrum office, during the first Trump administration.

Mr. Redl's group says the tighter bottleneck now isn't Washington. It's the "lengthy, often combative" licensing processes operators still face trying to serve customers outside the United States. Each country's regulator must issue landing rights.

Global spectrum rules have long been set through international consensus, hammered out at the ITU's World Radiocommunication Conferences roughly every four years, on the informal understanding that no country would alone move too far ahead of that consensus. The United States, under the FCC's current leadership, has been doing exactly that, getting ahead of the consensus.

Michael Calabrese, who directs the Wireless Future project at New America, argues that the United States should keep the pressure on to "demonstrate the viability" of these reforms, and then push the rest of the world to adopt similar ones.

In the 1970s, when treaties like the ITU's were first written, only governments had the technology, so governments set the pace, said Harold Feld, a long-time telecom policy lawyer. "Now you have private-sector companies moving as quickly as possible, and you have rivalry between countries," he said. "Not only are there no rules, there's less incentive within the structure to create them."

While diplomats dicker, what one advocate calls facts in the sky keep piling up. SpaceX's Starlink accounts for about two-thirds of all active satellites in orbit, concentrated in the low-Earth-orbit shells best suited to low-latency broadband. Starlink is now something like 60 per cent of SpaceX's revenue and essentially all of its operating income.

But the contingent that sees space as a shared commons isn't giving up. Hansdeep Singh, a human rights lawyer who co-founded the International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination, says the world needs to act "before a few powerful states and companies are able to create norms that then just become the rules."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

# **Growth:** Open Farm began as couple was seeking ethically sourced meat alternatives

FROM B1

According to Mr. Langleben, Open Farm is benefiting from what economists call a K-shaped economy, in which higher-income households see their spending power increase, even as lower-income consumers struggle.

During its last fiscal year ended June 30, Open Farm recorded more than $400-million in sales, he said, and since 2018, its annual growth rate has been around 58 per cent.

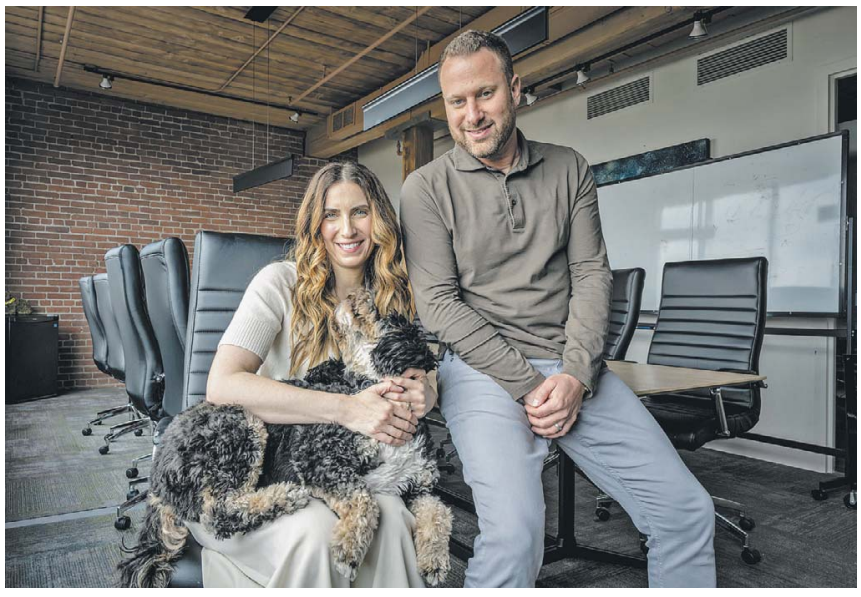
In 2020, as the pandemic stoked a boom in pet ownership, Open Farm had fewer than 40 employees; now it has a staff of roughly 135.

The Globe and Mail reported in June that the company had delayed an initial public offering it had been contemplating, amid choppy markets and concerns over consumer spending trends.

The company has not yet decided whether to go public, though Mr. Langleben said they are "seriously considering" the option.

"We're not in a rush," said Mr. Langleben, who co-founded the company in 2014 with his wife, Jacqueline Prehogan, and Derek Beigleman, who is no longer with the company. "We don't really have any gun to our head to do anything. We're profitable. We're cash-flow positive. We have great partners, minority partners. And I think we're assessing all of our options to continue growing the business."

Open Farm began when the couple began seeking out more ethically sourced meat alternatives. While the transition was relatively easy for themselves, when it came to feeding Ted's predecessors – a pair of pugs whose portraits still hang on the office walls – they didn't find much. So they launched the company, which now makes a variety of pet foods with ethically sourced meats, as well as plant-based recipes.



**Jacqueline Prehogan and Isaac Langleben, founders of pet food company Open Farm, say they are assessing all of their options in order to continue growing their business.** EDUARDO LIMA/GLOBE AND MAIL

"We're paying more for our meat. We're always doing things the hard way. But we know that's our entire reason for existing," said Ms. Prehogan, Open Farm's co-founder and chief brand officer.

All of Open Farm's proteins carry animal-welfare certifications, and the company has "very aggressive sustainability targets," Ms. Prehogan said.

Not all of those targets have been easy to meet. The most challenging, she said, has been the commitment Open Farm made in 2020 to reduce its carbon emissions by 42 per cent within 10 years. In the meantime, the company has been offsetting emissions with carbon credits and renewable energy certificates. It will soon provide a full update on that commitment, Ms. Prehogan said.

"I think that's the key, it's a journey. And it's being transparent and bringing everybody along with us – the stuff that's working, the stuff that's really challenging," she said.

> The most challenging, she said, has been the commitment Open Farm made in 2020 to reduce its carbon emissions by 42 per cent within 10 years. In the meantime, the company has been offsetting emissions with carbon credits and renewable energy certificates.

The pet industry has grown significantly in recent years, as more people adopted animals and proved willing to spend liberally on care for their four-legged friends. But the costs of veterinary care, food and grooming have also risen, leading some consumers to take a second look at their budgets.

In the United States – the source of 85 per cent of Open Farm's sales – there are signs of a slowdown. The U.S. pet industry's nearly 20-per-cent growth in 2021 moderated to 9 per cent in 2025, according to research from Morgan Stanley, and is expected to contract further to 4 per cent through 2030.

Canadian retailer Pet Valu has also reported a pullback in spending, and in May the company cut its earnings outlook for this year. On a conference call to discuss the company's first-quarter earnings, CEO Greg Ramier told analysts that the retailer was seeing "a higher level of value-seeking behaviour from devoted pet lovers," while rising fuel prices had also increased transportation costs for both Pet Valu and its product suppliers.

But the contraction is uneven across the industry. New Jersey-based Freshpet Inc., which makes premium-priced fresh and frozen pet foods, has seen continued strength in its sales. "Year-to-date, the consumer's remained remarkably resilient," CEO William Cyr told analysts on the company's most recent earnings call in May, although he added that Freshpet would keep "a watchful eye" for possible changes in buying habits.

"You do have some customers who are making choices to trade down and spend less to feed their pets," Open Farm's Mr. Langleben said. "But you're still seeing a lot of consumers who are trading up."

Nearly half of Open Farm's business is online, largely through its own website, as well as Amazon.com Inc. In addition, the products are now sold in more than 10,000 stores in the U.S. and Canada, including chains such as Pet Valu and Global Pet Foods, as well as independent retailers. In June, Open Farm launched a major retail expansion in 1,700 PetSmart stores across North America.

In recent years, Open Farm has also begun expanding overseas, through wholesale partners in China, South Korea and Japan.

"Long term, we think Open Farm will be a global brand. That's our vision," Mr. Langleben said. "For now, we're going to continue to invest in the markets we're in today. But over time, definitely, more serious international expansion will be on the table, and that includes Europe, the U.K., more focused energy on Asia as well."

The next priority for Open Farm is a major investment in marketing.

"We have the distribution, and then our job is to work with them to actually drive people and consumers into their stores," Ms. Prehogan said. "… It's a pivotal point for us, in terms of taking the brand to the next level."

# **Tufts:** Labour leaders are already rethinking political relationship with Prime Minister

FROM B1

While the impacts of any disruption would be significant for workers and WestJet passengers, this latest dispute is also a microcosm of the larger forces shaping the future of industrial relations in Canada. In order to get a fair collective agreement, flight attendants must maintain the power to strike. In this sector, however, the right to strike is precarious at best.

Last summer, Air Canada flight attendants were ordered back to work by the government less than 12 hours into a strike. At that time, flight attendants defied the back-to-work order issued by the Jobs Minister and continued the stoppage for another two days. We can expect the government to limit the right of workers to strike this time as well. In fact, it is possible that the government may intervene before a strike even begins.

The Liberal government continues to set a tone restricting the right to strike in federally regulated sectors, something that is emerging as foundational to Prime Minister Mark Carney's economic strategy. Ordering flight attendants back to work is about much more than getting planes in the air.

The government will use any disruption to reinforce its own pattern of limiting labour rights to signal to investors that Canada's economy will be kept moving and open at any cost. In April, the Liberals once again floated the privatization of large airports as a way of unlocking their full asset value for investors, and raising funds for new infrastructure. Airports are already sought-after investments by large investors (including pension funds), even more so if workers in the sector can't strike to improve wages.

**WestJet flight attendants strike at Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, B.C., on Sunday. Last summer, Air Canada flight attendants were ordered back to work by the government less than 12 hours into a strike.** ETHAN CAIRNS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The government has also initiated a consultation regarding the Canada Labour Code as it considers amendments that would further stifle strikes in federal sectors. Normalizing limitations on the right to strike is fundamental to guaranteeing that flights are on schedule, resources are shipped by rail and that ports allow imports and exports to flow unimpeded – all with contained labour costs.

Executives at WestJet and its owner Gerald Schwartz are aware of the political context and Mr. Carney's economic vision. Strategically, the company could very well have refused CUPE's demands and slowed negotiations, knowing the government will intervene, minimizing the economic cost of a strike. It could have simply taken their chances with some form of arbitration, hoping that any imposed settlement would maintain the current system of compensation.

The best that passengers could have hoped for was that WestJet was serious about reaching a settlement with CUPE that didn't rely on government intervention to do the work for them.

The wildcard in all of this will be the response from other players. A relatively small group of workers, predominantly women, find themselves in the midst of a crucial struggle that is about much more than ground pay. If the rights of federally regulated workers are going to be protected in the future, other unions will have to keep in mind that any labour dispute is now a two-front battle with the employer and the state.

Labour leaders are already rethinking their political relationship with the "elbows-up" Prime Minister. An opening has been created for the federal NDP Leader Avi Lewis and perhaps even Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives to respect basic workers' rights.

There will be a political cost for Mr. Carney if he continues to limit the ability to strike – a fundamental source of workers' power. But his recent actions show he may very well be willing to pay it.

Steven Tufts is an associate professor in the faculty of environmental and urban change at York University.

# **Helium:** Element is one of 34 minerals and metals Ottawa has designated as critical

FROM B1

Output has been sharply reduced and it's been estimated it could take three to five years for repairs to be complete.

And then there's the Strait of Hormuz to contend with. Since the war began, few ships have been able to exit the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the open sea.

"It's very likely that Qatar won't fully restart until they trust the strait is genuinely safe, and we are not seeing that right now," Ms. Hui said.

Ukrainian attacks on Russian energy infrastructure, and Russian export controls on helium as it looks to meet its own military needs, have taken yet more supplies out of the equation.

"The security of supply story I don't think can be overstated," said Mr. Bakker, who says he has also been fielding calls from potential Chinese buyers for the first time in years.

Canada has one-fifth of the world's helium reserves, but makes up about 2 per cent of global production. The resource is mainly centred in the southern Prairies. One of the biggest players, North American Helium, is looking to establish a helium hub in southwest Saskatchewan.

Unlike in Qatar, helium in Western Canada can be found in pockets of nitrogen deep underground, in separate formations from where natural gas lies. It's extracted using the kind of no-frills rigs used in conventional oil and gas drilling.

Helium is notoriously difficult to store and transport, as it becomes a liquid at an extraordinarily cold -269 C. Canada does not have the ability domestically to liquefy the gas – a necessary step for long-haul transport – so what supply it does produce is trucked to the U.S. for processing. North American Helium is aiming to build Canada's first liquefaction facility in Saskatchewan.

"We believe that this industry can be a major reliable, secure supplier of helium to the world that increasingly needs it and increasingly is finding itself prone to geopolitical pressures," said Richard Dunn, executive director of the Helium Developers Association of Canada.

"We think we're on the cusp of something."

Helium is one of the 34 minerals and metals the Canadian government has designated as critical, meaning the supply chain is threatened and that there is a reasonable chance of it being produced in Canada. But a "quirk" in the Income Tax Act means helium doesn't receive the same tax treatment as the other 33 minerals on the list, said Mr. Dunn.

Helium developers have been urging the federal government to rectify that so the industry can attract the capital it needs to ramp up production enough for domestic liquefaction to make economic sense.

Among other things, helium companies with no current revenues want to be able to pass on tax credits to their investors through flow-through shares – an important source of financing in the resource space. They also want to have access to the Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit.

"We are not looking for anything [from] the government that is not in their economic tool box," said Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Dunn's group has been lobbying hard and plans to make submissions to Ottawa ahead of its next budget. The tone he's heard so far has been encouraging.

"Securing access to critical minerals, including helium, is a priority for Canada," Tim Hodgson, the federal natural resources minister, wrote in a letter to Mr. Dunn in June.

"Natural Resources Canada acknowledges your requests for support for the Canadian helium industry, and I recognize the potential these measures could have in growing Canada's helium industry.

"I look forward to progress in securing a sustainable supply of helium for Canada."

Ms. Hui said Ottawa could also help by acting as an "anchor" for production through long-term offtake agreements, underpinning early investments in an uncertain industry. There are also financial tools, like contracts for difference, that can shield producers from short-term commodity price swings.

In addition to liquefaction capabilities, the industry would need specialized cryogenic containers to ship the liquid helium long distances around the globe and the rail and port infrastructure to get it around, Hui added.

In the meantime, Avanti has been focusing on starting production from a field in Montana, where Mr. Bakker says the business environment is more conducive to deploying capital quickly. Land the company has on the Alberta side of the border is dormant for now.

"We would love to come back and re-establish our position here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## A cocktail reception and panel discussion featuring authorities in women's brain health, heart and stroke, and cancer.

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**MODERATOR**
Jennifer Gillivan

President & CEO,
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**PANELIST**
Dr. Gillian Einstein

Chair of Women's Brain Health and Aging, Professor, University of Toronto

**PANELIST**
Dr. Sharon Mulvagh

Cardiologist, Clinical Investigator, Echocardiographer, Professor, Dalhousie University

**PANELIST**
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GLOBE INVESTOR

# Why market narratives often outlive data

Investors are responding to the story the market has already accepted

LAURA BAKER

OPINION

Associate client portfolio manager at PenderFund Capital Management Ltd. in Vancouver

Investing is much about interpretation. Markets decide which ideas deserve confidence, which should fade and which assumptions have outlived the evidence.

Individuals and organizations can craft compelling market narratives, but they can't control them forever. Narratives can take on lives of their own and persist after facts change, although not indefinitely. Eventually, numbers force reassessment. The opportunity is to recognize the shift.

In markets driven by news cycles, information travels quickly. Passive flows and algorithmic trading mean a single word such as "miss" can send a stock lower, regardless of business quality. Add "estimates" and consensus hardens.

Narratives shape perception. The data reveal whether it still holds. The disconnect often appears in the lag between fundamentals changing and the market updating the story.

Currently, the dominant market story remains the Magnificent Seven: **Tesla Inc.**, **Meta Platforms Inc.**, **Nvidia Corp.**, **Amazon.com Inc.**, **Alphabet Inc.**, **Microsoft Corp.** and **Apple Inc.** The 10 largest companies in the S&P 500 account for roughly 40 per cent of the index. Their story is not over, but it's changing.

Consensus estimates show the Magnificent Seven's earnings growth decelerating to approximately 19 per cent by 2027 from roughly 40 per cent in 2024. That's still healthy, but the gap with the rest of the market is narrowing quickly. The S&P 500, excluding the Magnificent Seven, is projected to grow earnings by about 15 per cent in 2027.

The individual numbers make the shift clearer. Earnings per share growth for the Magnificent Seven peaked in 2024, with Nvidia at 665 per cent, Amazon at 92 per cent and Meta at 62 per cent. By 2027, several growth rates look more ordinary: Alphabet at 4 per cent, Apple at 7 per cent, Meta at 8 per cent and Microsoft at 11 per cent. Even Nvidia is expected to moderate to 82 per cent in 2027 from 130 per cent in 2025.

These businesses remain exceptional, but no longer the same growth engines that justified years of multiple expansion. The Magnificent Seven's price/earnings premium over the rest of the S&P 500, which spent most of the past decade in the 40-per-cent to 100-per-cent-plus range, has compressed to roughly 10 per cent to 15 per cent, its lowest level in more than 10 years.

Now, compare that with small-caps. During the 10 years through 2025, the S&P 500's cumulative total return outpaced the Russell 2000's by roughly 120 percentage points. At the start of 2026, the average S&P 500 stock traded at more than 26 times forward earnings compared with roughly 18 for the average Russell 2000 stock. Some of that premium was earned, but the gap had widened beyond what the earnings differential appeared to justify.

That's beginning to change. The Russell 2000 is up by more than 20 per cent through the first half of 2026, its best first-half performance since 1991, outperforming the S&P 500's 9.3 per cent gain by the widest halfway-mark margin since 2003.

Part of the story is fundamental: 2026 earnings growth estimates for Russell 2000 components have jumped to 38 per cent from 23 per cent since January as AI tailwinds finally reach smaller companies. Analysts forecast Russell 2000 earnings growth of roughly 40 per cent in 2027 compared with 16 per cent for the S&P 500.

That's where market memory matters. The market may remember small-caps as structurally weaker, more interest rate-sensitive or less reliable than the mega-cap leaders that carried the last cycle. Some of that memory was earned. But inherited stories can outlast the facts that created them. When fundamentals shift, investors risk trading yesterday's narrative instead of recognizing the next one taking shape.

There's evidence for a changing story here. Small- and mid-cap companies are emerging from a multi-year earnings recession with cleaner balance sheets and leaner cost structures.

Although large-caps spent 2025 and 2026 absorbing AI infrastructure capital expenditures, with the top five hyperscalers (the handful of firms building AI and cloud infrastructure at massive scale, including Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta, and **Oracle Corp.**) projected to exceed US$600-billion by 2027, smaller companies may be better positioned for the next stage.

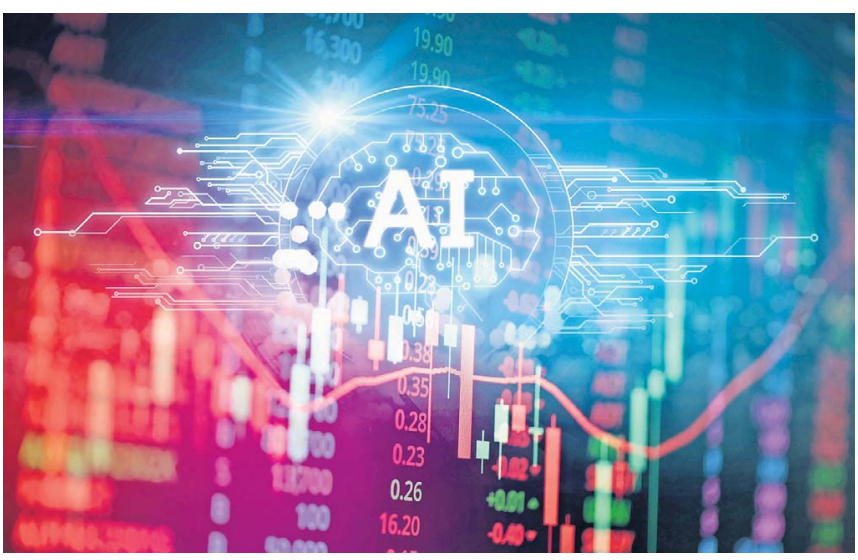
In the picks-and-shovels layer of AI, some companies supply the tools the buildout runs on and, not chasing the hype, are just filling the orders. Others are using AI internally to run leaner, so productivity gains flow straight into margins instead of getting absorbed by overhead. Either way, they don't need an aggressive macro catalyst to outperform. They just need the earnings gap to keep closing.

The question for investors is not simply which story is most compelling. It's whether the story still fits the facts and whether the numbers are already pointing to the next narrative.

Markets can cling to old narratives after the underlying reality has changed. Good investors aren't waiting for the story to break officially; they're paying close attention to the evidence it already has.

# Surging investments in AI raise risks of 'AI washing'

RITA SILVAN




PANIDA WIJITPANYA/GETTY IMAGES

There's a tsunami of capital pouring into artificial intelligence, bringing with it attractive rewards but also new risks for investors. A recent Goldman Sachs Global Institute study estimates that U.S. companies are poised to invest US$7.6-trillion in AI-related infrastructure by 2031. Alongside the trend is a growing number of companies branding, or rebranding, themselves as AI firms, raising the spectre of "AI washing."

A recent analysis from The Financial Times shows that dozens of firms from sectors as diverse as gold mining, cancer treatment and footwear have rebranded themselves as AI companies since 2023. Initially, the rebranding increased total valuations by US$8.7-billion. However, the gains were short-lived, with some of the companies now sporting lower valuations than before their AI rebrand.

Peter Hofstra, senior vice-president and co-head of equities, research, at CI Global Asset Management and co-portfolio manager of CI Global Artificial Intelligence Fund, says "AI washing" may be a function of several factors.

One is the backdrop of every enterprise having to deal with AI in some way, either as a generational opportunity or as an existential threat.

"A lot of the chatter around AI use is very real, but it can get exaggerated, especially when someone's trying to achieve a certain outcome, whether that's a higher stock price or to support a capital raise," Mr. Hofstra says.

"'AI washing' is classic capitalism, in which everyone wants to jump on the train and go for a ride. It's essentially a marketing tool."

Another vector may be the vague definition of what AI is.

"The only definition I've found is: if something appears intelligent and it's not biological, it must be artificial intelligence," Mr. Hofstra says.

"Yet, there's a lot of deterministic programming that looks intelligent. When the first computer beat a chess master, it was all deterministic programming, but it seemed very intelligent," he adds.

A related issue may be an AI knowledge gap among company leaders. During first-quarter earnings calls from S&P 500 companies, executives at 337 firms talked about AI. However, a report by AI-Driven Enterprise Institute (AIDE), which scores companies on their AI initiatives, found that "literacy among the S&P 500 board members and executives in AI is not where it needs to be."

Hence, in some cases, "AI washing" may be less a function of deceptive business practices and more a lack of AI maturity among chief executives amid rapid technological change. For business leaders, the financial incentives to highlight their companies' AI capabilities are strong, Mr. Hofstra says.

Mickey Ganguly, associate portfolio manager at CIBC Global Asset Management in Toronto, who specializes in the global technology sector, notes several common red flags that could indicate exaggerated AI claims, starting with an executive who is unable to explain clearly how their company uses AI.

"If they're a legacy technology company and are suddenly calling themselves an AI company, or they claim to be generating growing revenue from AI, but they're not showing rising capital investments in R&D, that would give me pause," he says.

"Sometimes, companies say they have proprietary data, but what they're really doing is pulling their customers' data with no real insight," he adds.

He says some sectors, such as enterprise software, are more prone to "AI washing" because they are more likely to report that they have proprietary data and use AI to target their audience better.

"Are they really doing that, or is it just based on what they've always done?"

He prefers investing in **Alphabet Inc.** or **Meta Platforms Inc.**, for which "AI washing" is less of a concern, as they're investing in their capabilities, which are supported by accelerated growth. Currently, he runs a concentrated portfolio of 35 technology stocks in which he has high conviction.

Mr. Hofstra acknowledges the challenge investors face in balancing the risk of missing out on an AI leader against the risk of investing in an "AI-washing" company.

"You don't have to go too far to find out if someone is just trying to ride the wave or if they really have something innovative that could benefit the current trend," he adds.

Mr. Hofstra focuses on companies that have true proprietary data and can use AI to provide valuable insights back to their customers.

The aforementioned Alphabet and Meta are mega-cap examples; however, even a smaller firm, for example, one that collects medical records at a metadata level and then uses AI to tease out why a placebo works half the time, could generate substantial economic value for its clients.

"If you're truly the trusted partner and key in a decision framework that the [client's] business depends on, that stickiness can certainly keep you in the game."

However, he cautions investors to tread carefully, "because there are so many powerful and big things happening right now" in terms of AI development.

## WHAT INVESTORS NEED TO KNOW FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

- Canadian markets closed (Civic Holiday)
- China, Japan and euro zone's manufacturing PMI
- Germany's retail sales
- (9:45 a.m. ET) U.S. global manufacturing PMI for July.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. ISM manufacturing PMI for July.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. construction spending for June. The Street is expecting a month-over-month increase of 0.2 per cent.
- (2 p.m. ET) U.S. Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey for July.
- Also: U.S. Autodata total vehicle sales for July

**Earnings include:** Berkshire Hathaway Inc.; Marriott International Inc.; Palantir Technologies Inc.; Snap Inc.; Williams Companies Inc.; 5N Plus Inc.

### TUESDAY

- (8:30 a.m. ET) Canada's merchandise trade balance for June
- (8:30 a.m. ET) U.S. goods and services trade deficit for June.
- (9:30 a.m. ET) Canada's S&P global manufacturing PMI for July.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. factory orders for June. The consensus forecast is a gain of 0.1 per cent from May.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. Job Openings & Labor Turnover Survey for June.
- Also: Canadian auto sales for July.

**Earnings include:** Advanced Micro Devices Inc.; Amgen Inc.; Arista Networks; Caterpillar Inc.; Dream Industrial REIT; Gilead Sciences Inc.; Hut 8 Corp.; IA Financial Corp. Inc.; McDonald's Corp.; Merck & Co. Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; RB Global Inc.; RioCan REIT; Space Exploration Technologies Corp.; Spotify Technology SA; SSR Mining Inc.; Suncor Energy Inc.

### WEDNESDAY

- China, Japan and euro zone's services and composite PMI
- (8:15 a.m. ET) U.S. ADP National Employment Report for July.
- (9:45 a.m. ET) U.S. S&P global services and composite PMI for July.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. ISM services PMI for July.

**Earnings include:** Ebay Inc.; Element Fleet Management Corp.; Eli Lilly & Co.; Ero Copper Corp.; Finning International Inc.; Kinaxis Inc.; Manulife Financial Corp.; Novo Nordisk A/S; Nurtien Ltd.; Paramount Resources Ltd.; SanDisk Corp.; Shopify Inc.; Tourmaline Oil Corp.; Triple Flag Precious Metals Corp.; Walt Disney Co.; Western Digital Corp.; Uber Technologies Inc.; WSP Global Inc.

### THURSDAY

- China's foreign reserves
- Euro zone's retail sales
- Germany's factory orders
- (6 a.m. ET) U.S. Conference Board CEO Confidence Index for Q3.
- (8:30 a.m. ET) U.S. initial jobless claims for week of Aug. 1. Estimate is 202,000, up 5,000 from the previous week.
- (8:30 a.m. ET) U.S. productivity and labor unit costs for Q2 (preliminary reading). The Street is projecting annualized rate rises of 0.7 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively.
- (9:30 a.m. ET) Canada's S&P global services PMI for July.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. wholesale inventories for June.
- (10 a.m. ET) U.S. Global Supply Chain Pressure Index for July.

**Earnings include:** Airbnb Inc.; Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.; Artemis Gold Inc.; AtkinsRéalis Group Inc.; BCE Inc.; B2Gold Corp.; Chartwell Retirement Residences; Cloudfare Inc.; ConocoPhillips; Constellation Energy Corp.; Datadog Inc.; Iamgold Corp.; Keyera Corp.; Lundin Gold Inc.; Open Text Corp.; Parker-Hannifin Corp.; Quebecor Inc.; Restaurant Brands International Inc.; Saputo Inc.; Siemens Ag; SoftBank Group Corp.; Sony ADR; Sun Life Financial Inc.; Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.

### FRIDAY

- China's trade surplus, CPI and PPI
- Japan's household spending
- Germany's industrial production and trade surplus
- (8:30 a.m. ET) Canadian employment for July. The Street is expecting a month-over-month gain of 0.1 per cent (15,000 jobs) with the unemployment rate remaining at 6.5 per cent and average hourly wages up 3.3 per cent year-over-year.
- (8:30 a.m. ET) U.S. nonfarm payrolls for July. Consensus is a gain of 86,000 jobs with the unemployment rate staying at 4.2 per cent and average hourly wages up 0.3 per cent from June (and 3.5 per cent year-over-year).
- (10 a.m. ET) Canada's Ivey PMI for July.
- (3 p.m. ET) U.S. consumer credit for June.

**Earnings include:** Emera Inc.; PPL Corp.; Skeena Resources Ltd.; Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.; Telesat Corp.

# Why this $11-billion money manager is buying Cameco, Kraken Robotics

BRENDA BOUW

THE MOVER

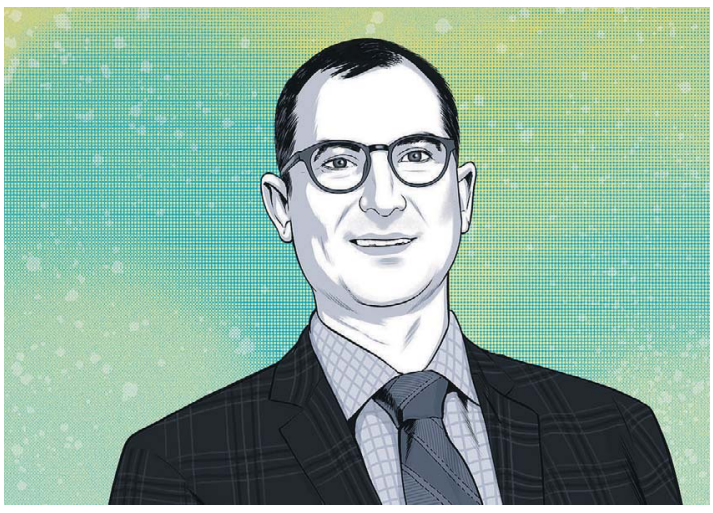


ILLUSTRATION BY JOEL KIMMEL

Money manager Craig Jerusalim isn't letting the latest tariff threats derail his bullish view on Canadian stocks.

"I'm extremely optimistic when I look at the earnings growth of Canadian companies," says the senior portfolio manager at CIBC Asset Management Inc. in Toronto, who co-manages more than $11-billion in assets across two strategies: Canadian growth at a reasonable price (also known as GARP) and Canadian dividend growth.

Although there has been some volatility in recent months, Mr. Jerusalim says market pullbacks have provided opportunities to buy more shares of good companies that have been overlooked.

"If you take a longer-term view and ride through those short-term volatile periods, then I'm long-term bullish on the market," he says.

His CIBC Dividend Growth Fund is up 19.4 per cent over the past year. Its three-year and five-year annualized returns are 18.6 per cent and 12.8 per cent, respectively.

His Renaissance Canadian Growth Fund is up 17.5 per cent over the past 12 months and has three-year and five-year annualized returns of 18.1 per cent and 11.6 per cent, respectively. The performance data are based on total returns, net of fees, as of July 21.

The Globe spoke with Mr. Jerusalim recently about three stocks he likes and a sector he's recently trimmed.

**Name three stocks you own and continue to buy.**

**Kraken Robotics Inc.**, the Mount Pearl, N.L.-based marine technology company, is a stock we started buying a few months ago. It has always been an expensive stock, but it pulled back after its transformational acquisition of its European peer, Covelya Group Ltd., which gave us an opportunity to buy this high-quality, growing company at a more reasonable price.

We see a host of positive catalysts and signposts: Orders for its underwater robotics and batteries have been coming in ahead of expectations while military and commercial needs for its services have only grown in the current geopolitical environment.

We've seen less profitable peers trading at higher multiples than Kraken and both its chief executive and chief financial officers have recently purchased additional shares in the open market.

Consistently strong quarterly results, likely index inclusion either later this year or early next year, as well as additional U.S. Navy orders should help rerate the stock. We've been adding to our position in recent weeks.

**Brookfield Asset Management Ltd.**, the Toronto-based private equity firm specializing in acquisitions and growth capital investments, is a stock we've been adding to in recent months.

Brookfield Asset Management's shares have fallen in sympathy with its alternative asset manager peers on fears that artificial intelligence will continue to disrupt their software businesses. However, unlike many of its peers, Brookfield Asset Management's software exposure is less than 1 per cent of assets.

As a result, it hasn't needed to gate any of its funds and is expected to deliver a record year of fundraising. Brookfield Asset Management is also expected to be a significant beneficiary of continued AI spending across infrastructure, energy, real estate and data.

At times we've been overweight the asset manager, and other times we've been overweight the parent, **Brookfield Corp**. But today we see tremendous opportunities in both of them and are overweight both [compared with the benchmark S&P/TSX Composite Index].

**Cameco Corp.**, the Saskatoon-based uranium producer, is a stock we bought in 2023 and have been adding more of in recent weeks. Although Cameco is not an inexpensive company, the 30-per-cent pullback from its February highs provided us a nice opportunity to move back to an overweight position across our portfolios.

Even before the Iran war, there was enhanced focus on internal energy security, which is now heightened. Nuclear will necessarily play an important role in internal energy security across many countries, both from a security-of-supply vantage and from a greenhouse gas reduction vantage. We see this dynamic as a significant advantage for Canada and the market leader, Cameco, specifically over the medium and long term.

Cameco also benefits from its ownership in Westinghouse Electric Co. [In 2023, Cameco bought a 49-per-cent interest in Westinghouse, one of the world's largest nuclear services businesses, while **Brookfield Renewable Partners** bought the remaining 51 per cent].

**Name a stock or sector you recently sold.**

At the risk of making a career-limiting move, we've been trimming our exposure to the Canadian banks, moving to an underweight position versus the index.

The Canadian banks are most definitely firing on all cylinders: margin expansion, booming wealth management franchises, strong capital markets activity and benign credit. In addition, OSFI [Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions] boosted the sector even further back in June, when it reduced the domestic stability buffer, which further freed up capital to enhance lending and investments and boost additional growth.

This all sounds great except that the group is priced for perfection and any hiccup could lead to profit-taking. The Big Six Canadian banks, as a group, are now trading at a forward price-to-earnings ratio of about 16 times, which is significantly above their U.S. peers and well above their peak valuation from before the financial crisis.

So, while we still maintain significant exposure across our strategies and we're bullish long-term, we've now moved to a modest underweight for the group.

Special to The Globe and Mail

This interview has been edited and condensed.

# Priced out of Halifax, this mom bought land and built an off-grid home

ZAHRA KHOZEMA

MY FIRST HOME

ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA BOLTON

Mariam's path to home ownership has been untraditional, shaped by a pandemic-era surge in Halifax housing prices.

The 42-year-old single mom lives in a two-bedroom, one-bathroom off-grid home that she built herself on 38 acres near Bridgewater, N.S. She has no mortgage, no utility bills and financed it all without borrowing from a bank.

"I needed to have some agency in the midst of all of these massive global shifts," she said. "If I have a little pocket in the world, maybe I'll feel a bit more secure."

Before moving to Bridgewater, Mariam spent about 15 years renting in Halifax. She had lived in apartments, including a housing co-op, before renting a four-bedroom house for $1,800 a month, with total housing costs reaching roughly $2,500 after utilities. Her original plan was to purchase that home through a rent-to-own agreement with her landlord.

But when the pandemic arrived, the owner decided to sell instead. Halifax's housing market transformed during the first year of lockdowns as record-low interest rates and a surge of buyers from other provinces pushed resale home prices up 10.9 per cent in 2020, after years of much slower growth.

What was discussed as a $350,000 purchase suddenly became a listing for about $500,000.

"To me, that was an unbelievable amount of money," said Mariam, who had already spent years living frugally and had managed to save about $35,000.

So instead of stretching her budget for a traditional home, she widened her search to include cottages, cabins and vacant land within 90 minutes of Halifax. Most affordable listings disappeared within days, she said, sometimes before she could even submit an offer.

Eventually, she found a listing on Kijiji - a 38-acre property with a small 10-by-10-foot cabin, an outhouse, a chicken coop and a driveway. The seller was asking for $65,000.

Mariam negotiated the price down to $50,000 by offering to pay cash. She completed the purchase in November, 2020, paying around $1,500 in legal fees to transfer the deed.

Coming up with that money had required years of piecing together income from multiple sources. While working in office management for a non-profit earning roughly $54,000 a year, she rented out a spare bedroom on Airbnb when her children weren't home to help cover housing costs.

During the pandemic, she supplemented her income with freelance consulting work and launched the East Coast branch of a small bakery business she co-owns with her sisters.

Mariam kept money in separate bank accounts, which made it less tempting to spend.

"It was just about out of sight, out of mind," she said. "The digital equivalent of just putting money under my mattress, really."

The final $15,000 came through a mix of loans and gifts from friends and family.

But the land purchase was just the beginning. To have a place to live while planning and building her home, Mariam bought a partly converted school bus for $6,000 and connected it to the cabin. She, her youngest child and her partner at the time lived there for two winters before she began building a permanent home.

To have a place to live while planning and building her home, Mariam bought a partially converted school bus for $6,000 and connected it to the cabin. She, her youngest child and her partner at the time lived there for two winters before she began building a permanent home.

She worked alongside a friend she hired for about $30 an hour, relied heavily on volunteer help from friends and used discount supplies. She estimates spending roughly $70,000 to build her 650-square-foot home with two bedrooms and a bathroom. She invested about $10,000 in solar panels rather than paying an estimated $30,000 to connect to the electrical grid.

More recently, she spent another $10,000 to dig a well after years of relying on rainwater collection and water hauling.

Growing up in a low-income family that moved frequently, she attended 13 different schools as a child. Having a permanent home, she said, provides a sense of stability she never had growing up.

"I can't imagine ever getting rid of the place," she said.

COSTS

- **Purchase price:** $50,000
- **Down payment:** None, bought outright in cash
- **Legal fees:** Approximately $1,500
- **Mortgage:** None
- **Home insurance:** None
- **Utilities:** None (off-grid with solar)
- **Property taxes:** $12,000-$14,000
- **School bus:** $6,000
- **House construction:** $70,000 (with labour)
- **Solar power system:** $10,000
- **Well:** $10,000
- **Firewood:** $1,200 (lasted more than one winter)
- **Advice:** Mariam recommends keeping an open mind about what home ownership looks like. Consider alternative properties and think realistically about what you can learn to repair or build yourself.

"Being willing to engage with those unknown places changes everything."

Special to The Globe and Mail

Some details may be changed to protect the privacy of the people profiled. Are you a first-time homeowner who would like to share their story? Send us an e-mail.

# SPORTS

Sabalenka arrives in Toronto for NB Open after month off ■ B14

Cunningham's stance on transgender athletes sparks rallies ■ B15

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

## A golden moment

Canada's Kyle Reyes, left, competes with Max Gregory of England in the men's 100-kilogram judo final at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland on Sunday. Reyes defeated Gregory 1-0 by ippon in the final to claim the gold medal ■ B13

STEVE WALSH/PA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Given the way it's carried on, why does FIFA continue to exist?

CATHAL KELLY

OPINION

FIFA is one of those outfits that makes you wish you were born with a con-artist streak. If you were, maybe you'd be the one bellying up to the trough instead of some gurning Swiss lawyer.

Founded on nothing but a desire to run a thing that didn't require running, FIFA has no actual sports business. It doesn't own its most valuable asset, the World Cup, in any real sense. Yes, it holds the trademark. But if Germany, Argentina and Japan decide tomorrow they would like to start an Earth Cup, the only thing FIFA could do to prevent them would be to throw them out of FIFA.

So it is a mystery to me why anyone is discussing what FIFA wants, plans or thinks is best for the game of football. The question should not be, 'How can FIFA be stopped?' It's, 'Given the way it's carried on, why does FIFA continue to exist?'

Over the last few days, FIFA president Gianni Infantino has gone from trying to sell off the World Cup, to delaying the sale, to rescinding the sale, to trying to scramble out of his own professional grave.

European football administrators say they want him gone. Okay, let's say that happens and they elect someone new. What's the history there?

The FIFA president before Infantino, Issa Hayatou, was multiply accused of taking bribes. The one before that, Sepp Blatter, has been banned from coming anywhere near the game of football. João Havelange, the one before that – many more bribes. That gets us back to the 1970s. A new person in the same suit is unlikely to be the answer here.

The FIFA president before Infantino, Issa Hayatou, was multiply accused of taking bribes. The one before that, Sepp Blatter, has been banned from coming anywhere near the game of football. João Havelange, the one before that – many more bribes. That gets us back to the 1970s. A new person in the same suit is unlikely to be the answer here.

One gets why the world's football leaders value FIFA. It does the tedious work of administration. Occasionally, they cut you a big cheque. Like a bad accountant, FIFA handles the money and spares you the details.

However, now that the accountant has suggested that instead of billing you, they sell off your estate and disburse those monies as they see fit, why would you continue to employ them?

The shame of this isn't the ask. What's cringeworthy is the reaction, and the reaction to the reaction.

Europe took FIFA's attempt to tranche their national teams like junk bonds poorly enough that they refused to show up at any future FIFA productions.

Was this supposed to demonstrate strength? You try to rob me to my face, so I won't be coming to your house again until you promise to stop making plans to rob me?

How will I know you've done that? Because you've replaced the huckster at the top with one of the assistant hucksters, all of whom are drawn from an unbroken procession of hucksters going back to the sporting Stone Age?

The world's reaction to this insipid response was hosannahs to European strength. They're in the process of being quiet-invaded by Russia, but at least they've shown the sports knobs who's not in charge.

You invented the game. Your leagues are the reason it's so popular. A bunch of rubes who have no claim on your work have tried to snatch it away so that they can use it as a buy-in at Donald Trump's casino. What other evidence of institutional bad faith do you require?

My over/under on the number of major European football powers it would take to capsize FIFA is two.

KELLY, B13

## With trade deadline hovering, Scherzer serves up his best showing of the season

MARTY KLINKENBERG

After his best start of the season, Max Scherzer did not sound like a guy who expects to be on any team but the Blue Jays when the trade deadline expires on Monday at 6 p.m.

The 42-year-old, a certain future member of the Hall of Fame, limited the St. Louis Cardinals to one run on four hits over six innings on Sunday in an eventual 5-1 defeat at Rogers Centre.

He struck out five, which leaves him three short of tying Walter Johnson for the 10th-most in Major League history. In 19 seasons, he has punched out 3,512 batters.

"Pinch me and wake me up," Scherzer said before the team flew to Houston for three games against the Astros. He has the second-most strikeouts among active players after Justin Verlander. "You are talking about me moving ahead of an all-time great."

Scherzer has lasted a half-dozen innings only twice in eight starts during an injury-plagued 2026 campaign. It is possible – but improbable – that a club with a better chance to reach the postseason may beckon him due to his age.

**Blue Jays starter Max Scherzer makes a pitch in the first inning of Sunday's game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Rogers Centre in Toronto.** COLE BURSTON/GETTY IMAGES

"Who knows what is going to happen here in the next 24 hours," Scherzer said.

Reports late Sunday night said that Kevin Gausman, who has been Toronto's best pitcher for the last five years, has been traded to the Chicago Cubs. The team will hold a video call with general manager Ross Atkins on Monday, after the deadline passes.

Toronto has a handful of players, among them George Springer and Daulton Varsho, whose names must be on the lips of general managers who hope to strengthen their squads for a long playoff run.

"We'll see what shakes out," manager John Schneider said. "I'm going to ride with these guys every day no matter what happens."

The Blue Jays have won eight games fewer than they have lost but remain in the periphery of the wild card race. They wasted a nice outing by Scherzer when St. Louis scored four times in the ninth inning.

Louis Varland came in with the score tied 1-1 but made a rare ineffective performance. After he walked the first batter, Varland ended up giving up three hits and a season-worst four runs, only one of which were earned.

Luis Urias threw wildly to first base on an easy grounder to second that should have ended the threat with only one run conceded.

JAYS, B13

# FIFA's predictable fallout, and the Dodgers load up with Skubal

## Should the PWHL check to see if Sophie Cunningham can skate?

**CATHAL KELLY**
**JAMIE ROSS**

MONDAY MORNING HALFBACK

Jamie Ross is the Sports editor at the Globe.

Cathal Kelly is the national sports columnist.

**FIFA president Gianni Infantino's position has become uncertain following widespread backlash to his plan to put the World Cup up for sale.** BENOIT TESSIER/REUTERS

**J.R.:** Cathal, I thought with the benefit of a breather, and the World Cup behind us, we would return to this space this week and start onto a new path. FIFA, however, has forced our hand, so we must start there again. Gianni Infantino tried to put World Cup up for sale last week and it backfired spectacularly. Surely he could've seen the backlash coming, yet he did it anyway. Why?

**C.K.:** Say this much for the guy, Jamie – he knows how to stay in the news. Infantino's entire career has been staked on making wild moves that bucked established wisdom.

Pushing the World Cup back to the U.S.A., cozying up to Donald Trump, expanding the tournament to 48 teams – these were all things a majority of deep football thinkers thought would end in total failure. Instead, they've all been professional triumphs for Infantino. So I get why he thought this latest bad idea would work out as well. Who was going to stop him? The same fops who've been backpedalling in front of him for a decade?

What Infantino didn't reckon on was the intensity of bad feeling he'd created with his unseemly sucking up to Trump. It was so over the top that it prompted a bunch of European bureaucrats to agree on something after less than five years of debate. That's a Lourdes-level miracle.

But I don't think it solves the problem. Now that selling the World Cup is on the table, somebody – probably not Infantino – is going to find a more palatable way to package the idea. None of these people can say no to free money.

Speaking of money, I rise to see that the richest team in baseball just won the Lotto Max – the L.A. Dodgers have acquired starter Tarik Skubal via trade. There are prohibitive favourites to win something, and then there's whatever the Dodgers just became.

Is this a good thing or a bad thing?

**J.R.:** That it came via trade made me think, 'Hey, they're not just throwing money around in free agency for once.'

Then I remembered they fleeced the Red Sox for Mookie Betts in a trade years back and the only conclusion I can draw here is that MLB owners so badly want a salary cap that they are willing concede the World Series to the Dodgers every year until they get it.

With the league and players union in talks for a new collective bargaining agreement, they may finally get their wish. Are you for or against salary caps?

**C.K.:** I'm neither for nor against, since it's not my money. But I think you're onto something. Baseball is collectively conceding the 2026 season to the Dodgers in anticipation that 2027 is not going to happen.

The owners will insist on a salary cap. The players will refuse. The league will shut down. And who do you think is going to win that staring contest? Thirty billionaires who make money whether baseball is being played or not, via their team valuations. Or 1,200 of their employees, all of different ages, stages and earnings, most of whose professional prospects are aging like lettuce. There's only one way that ends.

The mystery to me is why the players bother pretending to fight. Just take the deal you know you're going to be forced to take in the end and save yourself the hassle.

The NHL is seeing its own change of circumstances at the top. I wonder who should be more vexed by Macklin Celebrini's new US$18.8-million-a-year deal: Connor McDavid (two years at US$12.5-million) or Nathan MacKinnon (eight years at US$12.6-million).

Does it feel to you like their era is beginning to come to a close? They both had a miserable year in 2026.

**J.R.:** Their era beginning to come to a close?? (That's me doing my best you.) No, I do not think the era of MacKinnon and McDavid is winding down. Nathan MacKinnon scored more goals last season than he has at any other time in his career. And all you need to do is watch Connor McDavid to know he's at the top of his game. They didn't win anything , so I'll concede they had miserable years in that respect, but it's still their league.

Unless you have more to say on hockey, let's pivot back to summer sports: LIV golf will reportedly cancel its big finale, the team event in Detroit, that was supposed to go off at the end of the month. The league has been circling the drain for a while. This all ends with the superstar defectors returning to the PGA tour with hat in hand, a renewed appreciation for the sanctity of golf and a generally more charitable outlook on life, right?

**C.K.:** The problem with McDavid and MacKinnon isn't their skill level. It's that they have the miasma of failure about them now. McDavid can't fix the Oilers on his own, MacKinnon's Avalanche are a regular-season team living in a postseason world and both of them pooched things in Milan. I still get flashes of their third-period misses in the gold-medal game.

Sports loves comers and winners, and they're neither. By the time the next Olympics rolls around, they'll both be professionally geriatric. If it's still their league, they ought to do something this year to remind people of that.

On LIV, I'm convinced no one – including the people who put it together – actually thought this would work. The appeal of golf is nostalgic. It speaks to some imagined time in the past when the old empires were still ascendant.

You don't take that on by building a league – even using that word was a bad mistake – that is intentionally ahistorical.

In the end, all it was was a way for the Saudis to show that they could buy whatever they wanted, and for a few players to take that silver. In 10 years, LIV will be the USFL or the WHA – a thing that happened, but one no one remembers and nobody ever speaks about.

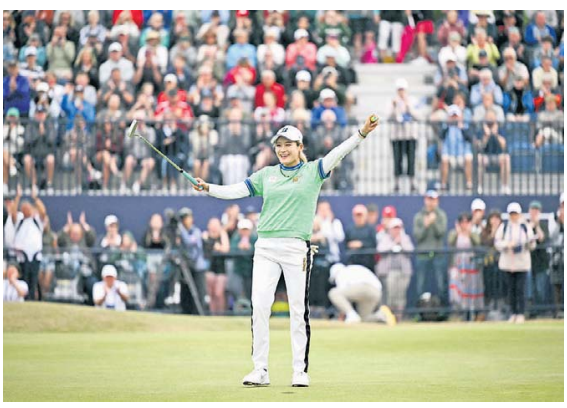
Last one – WNBA lightning catcher Sophie Cunningham. She made a comment in an interview about wanting to "protect young girls in a locker room" and the league is in fits. She has her winters off. Should the PWHL reach out to see if she can skate?

**J.R.:** The PWHL has going for it what other upstart leagues don't: a potential for violence, which is baked into hockey. I am not advocating for fighting, but the more body contact becomes normalized, the more exciting the product will become. I don't think they need to resort to the culture wars to attract more fans. Plus, using the WNBA's recent run through the mud might not be the best example of how to seize the public's attention.

**C.K.:** All attention is good attention in the entertainment business. It doesn't always work out for individuals, but the collective thrives on being talked about. The WNBA has that part down. Next week, we'll get to discuss whether or not the Blue Jays have given up on their season. If so, that's the real beginning of the dog days. Until then, stay cool.

# Kuwaki wins the Women's British Open on second playoff hole

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, ENGLAND



**Shiho Kuwaki celebrates on the 18th green after winning the Women's British Open in Lytham St. Annes, England, on Sunday.** GLYN KIRK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Shiho Kuwaki of Japan saved par to stay alive in a sudden-death playoff Sunday and won with a par on the second extra hole to claim the Women's British Open over Esther Henseleit of Germany for her first major title.

Kuwaki closed with a one-under 70 and looked like a winner as she waited nearly 30 minutes in the scoring room. Henseleit, in the final group, holed a 40-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at Royal Lytham & St. Annes for a 70 to join Kuwaki at five-under 279.

Henseleit then had the advantage in the playoff when the 23-year-old from Japan was in deep grass short of a bunker and had to lay up short of the green. Kuwaki hit wedge to three feet to save par and got another chance when Henseleit missed a 15-foot birdie putt for the win.

The tables turned on the second extra hole. Henseleit's tee shot on the 18th drifted far enough to the right that it was beneath a gorse bush. She did well to get that back to the fairway, and hit wedge to about 12 feet. But her par putt stayed left of the cup, and that left Kuwaki to tap in for par.

"Very happy with how I gave myself the opportunity to win today and how I handled myself. Just got a bit unlucky on the second playoff hole there," Henseleit said. "I tried really hard and I guess it just wasn't meant to be today."

This is the second straight Women's British Open title for Japan, following Miyu Yamashita's victory last year at Royal Porthcawl. Kuwaki, often known for her fashion, becomes the fifth player from Japan to have won an LPGA major over the past three years.

"I can't believe it," Kuwaki said through a translator and the trophy presentation.

The disappointment belonged to third-placed Yealimi Noh (74), the 25-year-old Californian who began the final round with a three-shot lead until it slowly went away with bogeys. She fell out of a share of the lead with a bogey on the 14th hole. Noh was one shot behind and had two reasonable looks at birdie – with Kuwaki already in the clubhouse at 279 – but failed to convert.

"It stings being one short," said Noh, who had missed three straight cuts before this week. "I told myself this morning, no matter what happens I'm happy to be in this position again. A couple of weeks ago, I was losing a lot of motivation. This week has helped me feel so much better about my game."

Haeran Ryu fell short in her bid to become the first player since Inbee Park to win three straight majors in one year. The Women's PGA and Evian Championship winner was still in the mix on the back nine. She needed birdies and instead closed with two straight bogeys for a 74 to tie for sixth.

Nelly Korda, the No. 1 player in women's golf and winner of the year's first two majors, started eight shots behind and closed with a 68. She was the leader in the clubhouse for the longest time at two under until Kuwaki finished.

Korda tied for fourth along with Jeeno Thitikul (73).

Kuwaki, at No. 46 in the women's world ranking, played bogey-free over the last 13 holes as everyone around her made mistakes. She was in the scoring room after signing and stayed there, even as Henseleit and Noh had birdie chances on the final two holes to force a playoff.

Henseleit delivered with a most unlikely putt, 40 feet across the 18th green. The 27-year-old German raised her right arm as the golf ball still had a few feet to go and punched the air when it dropped for birdie.

It was only the second playoff since the Women's British Open became a major in 2001.

Brooke Henderson of Smiths Falls, Ont., finished tied for 29th at four over.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Thorbjornsen wins first PGA Tour title at the eighth and final Rocket Classic

**LARRY LAGE** DETROIT

Michael Thorbjornsen pumped his right fist after making a 26-foot putt for birdie on his last hole to shoot seven-under 63 and reach 18 under to win his first PGA Tour title by two shots at the final Rocket Classic on Sunday.

"Perfect pace, perfect read," he said.

The 24-year-old Thorbjornsen sealed his spot in the FedEx Cup playoff after rolling into the Motor City No. 69 in the standings. The top 70 advance to the postseason after next week's Wyndham Championship.

"Just to be in the playoff for the first time is very exciting, he said. "It's great to be playing against the best players in the world."

Thorbjornsen started the fourth round three shots behind leader Davis Riley, whose rough start opened opportunities for the field.

"The start got the best of me and kind of put me behind the eight-ball early unfortunately," Riley said.

Thorbjornsen took advantage, surging into the lead at No. 14 with his third of four birdies in a six-hole stretch and closing with a clutch, curling putt that went in the right side of the cup.

He's the eighth first-time winner this season on the PGA Tour and the second straight, following Jackson Koivun's victory last week at the 3M Open.

"It was such a battle, playing with some great players," Thorbjornsen said. "Everyone was in the mix after nine holes."

Xander Schauffele (65) briefly led during the final round and finished second, two shots behind Thorbjornsen.

"I played really well and he just beat me straight up, so hats off to him," Schauffele said.

Riley (70) was another stroke behind in third, falling out of the lead with four bogeys.

Rasmus Hojgaard (68) was alone in fourth, four shots back.

Hideki Matsuyama (64), Matt Wallace (67) and Kristoffer Ventura (68) were another stroke back, tied for fifth.

Thorbjornsen was born in Cleveland, grew up in Massachusetts and attended Stanford. He won the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur over Akshay Bhatia, who has three PGA Tour wins.

He went straight to the PGA Tour in 2024 as the No. 1 player in the PGA Tour University ranking.

"I think it's one of the best programs in golf," Thorbjornsen said. "It's changed all of our lives."

Thorbjornsen chipped in from 35 feet for birdie at No. 12 on a day when he accurately aimed for pins that left him with some short birdie putts before his long one on his 72nd hole.

He had a bogey-free round, an accomplishment many other players on the leaderboard were unable to pull off on a day that started with rain and became windy when the clouds cleared.

The eighth and final Rocket Classic drew its strongest field and biggest crowds.

The PGA Tour is moving to a new model for 2028, effectively creating two tours and Rocket Mortgage decided not to exercise its option to host another tournament next year. The Detroit-based company isn't interested in continuing to spend US$15-million a year to be part of the second tier in the new era.

"There have been some conversations about having a tournament here again," tournament director Mark Hollis said. "Michigan deserves to have professional golf."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Steelers enter new territory with no-tackle training camp

## Former coach Tomlin's iron-sharpens-iron mentality gives way to player preservation under Mike McCarthy

**WILL GRAVES** PITTSBURGH

**Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike McCarthy, centre, watches as quarterback Drew Allar, left, runs a play during the team's camp in Latrobe, Pa., on Saturday.** GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earlier in his coaching career, Mike McCarthy leaned into pushing the limits of his players during training camp.

Two-a-days in full pads for two weeks straight? Sure. Practices scheduled for two hours that would sometimes bleed into three? You bet.

Not so much any more.

"I'd go to jail today if I tried to do that," McCarthy joked.

Or at least, the NFL's version of it. The league has evolved over the past 30 years. The collective agreement banned two-a-days long ago. There are now specific time limits on practice, and they are policed down to the minute.

So McCarthy has made it a point to get ahead of the curve. Just how far ahead? Well, when the Pittsburgh Steelers walk onto Chuck Noll Field on Monday for their first padded practice of the McCarthy Era, they'll do it with one particular instruction in mind: no tackling. At all.

While most of the changes to camp at Saint Vincent College have been subtle as the team transitions from Mike Tomlin to McCarthy – the volume of the music over the loudspeakers is softer, for example – the decision to do everything but take a teammate to the ground is not.

Tomlin's 19 years in Pittsburgh often began with an "iron sharpens iron" approach during the club's annual stay at the small school tucked in the western Pennsylvania hills. Don't get McCarthy wrong. He plans to run a physical camp, but the "Tempered Steel" mantra the club has adopted – one printed on shirts worn by players and staff – is real in more ways than one.

"It's a risk-assessment decision," McCarthy said.

Banning tackling during camp is hardly new. A significant chunk of NFL teams, Pittsburgh's long-time rival the Baltimore Ravens included, have adopted the policy in recent years.

Still, these are the Steelers, who have historically embraced – by reputation if not always in reality – the idea of being a throwback of sorts. So yeah, expect an adjustment period.

"Obviously, I love to tackle," inside linebacker Payton Wilson said. "It's been great in the past to get that in before the first preseason game, but that's what preseason games are for."

The Steelers instead will "thud up," meaning defenders will try to wrap up ball carriers but not take them all the way to the ground. It's commonplace during the regular season, but not always in early August.

McCarthy stressed there are tools the team can use to refine their tackling technique without driving each other into the turf. From monitoring a player's positioning using GPS to video analysis to other "sports science" resources to coaching points that have been part of the game since its inception, McCarthy is confident the Steelers will be ready when they need to be ready.

"The long stride, short stride, the specifics of how the fundamentals are being taught to the approach, the strike, the wrap, the finish," he said. "So these are constants that are taught throughout our whole team."

The shift will require as much of a mental adjustment as a physical adjustment. Defensive tackle Cam Heyward's first 15 camps were defined in part by what Tomlin likened to full-on sparring as opposed to shadowboxing. There were certain days during camp – Family Day and the team's Friday Night Lights practice at nearby Greater Latrobe High School – when Heyward knew the intensity level would spike.

"It's an alpha sport," the longest-tenured Steeler said. "And [we'd] just ramp it up."

McCarthy still wants to do just that, but in a way designed to get the defending AFC North champions to Week 1 as healthy as possible.

His philosophical evolution has more to do with the way the NFL operates in 2026 than any concern about the age of the team he is taking over, though it should be noted that several of Pittsburgh's highest-profile defenders – Heyward, outside linebacker T.J. Watt and defensive back Jalen Ramsey – are all in their 30s.

The way McCarthy figures it, getting defenders in the right position to drop an opponent is the hardest part of the process. Once they get there, finishing the play should be the easy part.

That doesn't mean the Steelers won't be searching for grey areas. Linebacker Patrick Queen spent the first four seasons of his career in Baltimore, where former head coach John Harbaugh placed a "no tackling" edict. That didn't stop Queen and teammate Roquan Smith from "tackling everybody" one day just to prove a point.

Queen doesn't expect to go quite that far over the next few weeks. Besides, it's not like the Steelers are going to run around with flags on their hips like they're preparing for the 2028 Olympics.

"At the end of the day, you still got a chance to put yourself on somebody, put your hip on somebody," he said. "Whatever you do pretackle, it's the same as putting somebody on the ground."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MLB

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 65 | 46 | .586 | — |
| New York | 63 | 49 | .563 | 2½ |
| Boston | 59 | 51 | .536 | 5½ |
| Baltimore | 54 | 58 | .482 | 11 |
| Toronto | 52 | 60 | .464 | 13½ |
| **CENTRAL DIVISION** | | | | |
| Chicago | 59 | 52 | .532 | — |
| Cleveland | 57 | 56 | .504 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 56 | 57 | .496 | 4 |
| Detroit | 54 | 58 | .482 | 5½ |
| Kansas City | 46 | 67 | .407 | 14 |
| **WEST DIVISION** | | | | |
| Houston | 58 | 55 | .513 | — |
| Texas | 55 | 57 | .491 | 2½ |
| Seattle | 55 | 58 | .487 | 3 |
| Athletics | 45 | 67 | .402 | 12½ |
| Los Angeles | 43 | 69 | .384 | 14½ |

**Sunday**
Chicago White Sox 9, Tampa Bay 1
Houston 7, Texas 3
Seattle 7, Minnesota 6
Detroit 11, Athletics 0

**Saturday**
Tampa Bay 1, Chicago White Sox 0
Seattle 4, Minnesota 3
Houston 5, Texas 4
Detroit 8, Athletics 6

**Monday — All Times Eastern**
Toronto (Bieber 2-2) at Houston (Javier 1-1), 8:10 p.m.

### INTERLEAGUE

**Sunday**
Philadelphia 8, Baltimore 0, 6 innings
St. Louis 5, Toronto 1
Cleveland 5, Arizona 0
N.Y. Yankees 2, Chicago Cubs 1
Colorado 8, Kansas City 1
L.A. Angels 3, Milwaukee 0
Boston at L.A. Dodgers

**Saturday**
Toronto 5, St. Louis 1
Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
Philadelphia 5, Baltimore 0
Arizona 12, Cleveland 8
Colorado 12, Kansas City 6
Boston 3, L.A. Dodgers 2
Milwaukee 3, L.A. Angels 1

**Monday — All Times Eastern**
St. Louis (McGreevy 4-9) at N.Y. Yankees (Schlittler 10-6), 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Webb 6-7) at Texas (Quantrill 4-3), 8:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Seymour 7-3) at Colorado (Lorenzen 3-9), 8:40 p.m.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

| EAST DIVISION | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 67 | 45 | .598 | — |
| Philadelphia | 59 | 53 | .527 | 8 |
| Miami | 58 | 55 | .513 | 9½ |
| Washington | 55 | 58 | .487 | 12½ |
| New York | 47 | 66 | .416 | 20½ |
| **CENTRAL DIVISION** | | | | |
| Milwaukee | 69 | 42 | .622 | — |
| Chicago | 63 | 49 | .563 | 6½ |
| Pittsburgh | 56 | 57 | .496 | 14 |
| St. Louis | 55 | 57 | .491 | 14½ |
| Cincinnati | 53 | 58 | .477 | 16 |
| **WEST DIVISION** | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 69 | 42 | .622 | — |
| Arizona | 59 | 53 | .527 | 10½ |
| San Diego | 58 | 54 | .518 | 11½ |
| San Francisco | 47 | 65 | .420 | 22½ |
| Colorado | 45 | 67 | .402 | 24½ |

**Sunday**
Atlanta 4, Washington 2
Miami 2, N.Y. Mets 0
Cincinnati 10, Pittsburgh 2
San Diego 5, San Francisco 4

**Saturday**
Miami 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 1
Atlanta 8, Washington 3
San Diego 6, San Francisco 5

**Monday**
**All Times Eastern**
Washington (TBD) at Philadelphia (Nola 3-9), 6:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Chandler 3-8) at Milwaukee (Sproat 3-6), 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Wrobleski 11-2) at Chicago Cubs (Boyd 6-1), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (King 6-7) at Arizona (Pfaadt 5-1), 9:40 p.m.

## NSL

**Sunday**
No games scheduled

**Saturday**
Toronto 6 Calgary 0

**Monday — All Times Eastern**
Ottawa at Halifax, 2 p.m.

## CEBL

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Scarborough | 23 | 19 | 4 | .826 | — |
| x-Brampton | 23 | 11 | 12 | .478 | 8 |
| Ottawa | 24 | 10 | 14 | .417 | 9½ |
| Niagara | 24 | 10 | 14 | .417 | 9½ |
| Montreal | 24 | 10 | 14 | .417 | 9½ |

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Vancouver | 24 | 15 | 9 | .625 | — |
| x-Winnipeg | 24 | 14 | 10 | .583 | 1 |
| x-Saskatoon | 23 | 12 | 11 | .522 | 2½ |
| x-Edmonton | 24 | 9 | 15 | .375 | 6 |
| Calgary | 23 | 8 | 15 | .318 | 6½ |

**x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — division

**Sunday**
Vancouver 114 Winnipeg 90
Ottawa 96 Edmonton 89

**Saturday**
Scarborough 117 Brampton 104

**Monday**
**All Times Eastern**
Brampton at Scarborough, 4 p.m.
Calgary at Saskatoon, 6 p.m.
**CONCLUSION OF REGULAR SEASON**

## MLS

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nashville | 18 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 35 | 14 | 40 |
| Miami | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 45 | 32 | 38 |
| New England | 17 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 28 | 21 | 30 |
| Chicago | 17 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 32 | 23 | 29 |
| N.Y. City F.C. | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 24 | 26 |
| Cincinnati | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 45 | 44 | 26 |
| Charlotte | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 29 | 27 | 25 |
| N.Y. Red Bulls | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 29 | 39 | 25 |
| D.C. | 18 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 26 | 29 | 23 |
| Orlando | 18 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 30 | 47 | 20 |
| Columbus | 18 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 26 | 28 | 20 |
| Toronto | 18 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 32 | 17 |
| Philadelphia | 18 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 25 | 33 | 16 |
| Montreal | 18 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 24 | 35 | 16 |
| Atlanta | 18 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 19 | 33 | 12 |

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vancouver | 17 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 38 | 17 | 34 |
| L.A. F.C. | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 35 | 19 | 34 |
| San Jose | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 37 | 24 | 33 |
| Houston | 17 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 24 | 29 |
| Salt Lake | 17 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 29 | 25 | 27 |
| Dallas | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 32 | 25 | 27 |
| St. Louis | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 24 | 24 | 26 |
| Seattle | 17 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 22 | 24 |
| Portland | 18 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 33 | 33 | 24 |
| Minnesota | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 25 | 24 |
| Colorado | 18 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 27 | 25 | 22 |
| L.A. Galaxy | 19 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 29 | 22 |
| San Diego | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 32 | 29 | 21 |
| Austin | 18 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 22 | 36 | 17 |
| Kansas City | 18 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 18 | 46 | 14 |

**Saturday**
New England 2 Montreal 2
Los Angeles F.C. 1 Vancouver 1
N.Y. Red Bulls 3 Orlando 2
Nashville 2 D.C. 2
Philadelphia 3 Atlanta 2
Columbus 2 Miami 2
Houston 2 Kansas City 0
Salt Lake City 1 St. Louis 1
San Diego 1 Minnesota 1
Chicago 2 Charlotte 1
Colorado 1 Austin 0
Cincinnati 4 San Jose 2
Dallas 0 L.A. Galaxy 0
Portland 2 Seattle 1

**Saturday, Aug. 8**
Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.

## CFL

### EAST DIVISION

| | GP | W | L | PF | PA | Pt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montreal | 8 | 7 | 1 | 273 | 217 | 14 |
| Toronto | 7 | 3 | 4 | 220 | 219 | 6 |
| Hamilton | 8 | 3 | 5 | 187 | 234 | 6 |
| Ottawa | 7 | 0 | 7 | 166 | 247 | 0 |

### WEST DIVISION

| | GP | W | L | PF | PA | Pt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edmonton | 8 | 6 | 2 | 229 | 200 | 12 |
| Saskatchewan | 7 | 5 | 2 | 232 | 195 | 10 |
| Calgary | 8 | 4 | 4 | 322 | 264 | 8 |
| Winnipeg | 8 | 4 | 4 | 204 | 243 | 8 |
| British Columbia | 7 | 2 | 5 | 187 | 201 | 4 |

**WEEK NINE**
**Bye:** Toronto
**Saturday**
Calgary 44 Hamilton 20
Saskatchewan 28 Edmonton 26
**Friday**
Montreal 34 Ottawa 13

## WNBA

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indiana | 19 | 11 | .633 | — |
| Atlanta | 18 | 10 | .643 | ½ |
| Washington | 16 | 12 | .571 | 2½ |
| New York | 17 | 13 | .567 | 2½ |
| Chicago | 11 | 18 | .379 | 8 |
| Toronto | 10 | 18 | .357 | 8½ |
| Connecticut | 7 | 22 | .241 | 12 |

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 25 | 6 | .806 | — |
| Las Vegas | 20 | 9 | .690 | 3½ |
| Golden State | 19 | 9 | .679 | 4 |
| Dallas | 18 | 11 | .621 | 5½ |
| Portland | 11 | 19 | .367 | 13½ |
| Los Angeles | 11 | 17 | .393 | 12½ |
| Phoenix | 11 | 19 | .367 | 13 |
| Seattle | 6 | 25 | .194 | 18½ |

**Sunday**
Minnesota 108, Indiana 100
Los Angeles 106, Portland 101
Connecticut at Dallas
Toronto at Golden State

**Saturday**
Chicago 84, Las Vegas 83
New York 94, Phoenix 92

**Monday**
**All Times Eastern**
Las Vegas at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Seattle at New York, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Chicago, 9 p.m.

## CPL

| | GP | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hamilton | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 8 | 35 |
| Calgary | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 8 | 33 |
| Vancouver | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 24 | 16 | 23 |
| Ottawa | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 23 | 28 | 21 |
| Quebec | 14 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 21 | 26 | 17 |
| Halifax | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 20 | 24 | 17 |
| Toronto | 13 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 30 | 13 |
| Victoria | 14 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 32 | 3 |

**Sunday**
Hamilton 0 Halifax 0
**Saturday**
Vancouver 3 Ottawa 1
Calgary 5 Toronto 0
**Friday**
Quebec 2 Victoria 1

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES

### MEDAL STANDINGS

**At Glasgow, Scotland**
**Final Medal Rankings**

| Nation | G | S | B | Tot |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 70 | 45 | 56 | 171 |
| England | 29 | 45 | 36 | 110 |
| **Canada** | **19** | **20** | **23** | **62** |
| India | 13 | 17 | 9 | 39 |
| Scotland | 13 | 9 | 17 | 39 |
| New Zealand | 10 | 14 | 12 | 36 |
| Wales | 9 | 10 | 12 | 31 |
| South Africa | 7 | 11 | 10 | 28 |
| Nigeria | 10 | 7 | 7 | 24 |
| Jamaica | 10 | 4 | 5 | 19 |
| Malaysia | 8 | 3 | 5 | 16 |
| Northern Ireland | 3 | 4 | 9 | 16 |

## PGA TOUR

### ROCKET CLASSIC

**Sunday**
**At Detroit**
**Purse:** $10 million
**Yardage:** 7,328; **Par:** 70
**FINAL ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| M. Thorbjornsen, $1.8M | 69-64-66-63—262 |
| Xander Schauffele, $1.09M | 66-66-67-65—264 |
| Davis Riley, $690,000 | 68-64-63-70—265 |
| Rasmus Hojgaard, $490,000 | 69-68-61-68—266 |
| Hideki Matsuyama, $370,000 | 67-68-68-64—267 |
| Kris Ventura, $370,000 | 68-66-65-68—267 |
| Matt Wallace, $370,000 | 67-64-69-67—267 |
| Patrick Cantlay, $252,500 | 64-66-70-68—268 |
| Rickie Fowler, $252,500 | 63-68-67-70—268 |
| Ryan Gerard, $252,500 | 63-69-69-67—268 |
| Michael Kim, $252,500 | 65-67-67-69—268 |
| Chris Kirk, $252,500 | 65-67-66-70—268 |
| Davis Thompson, $252,500 | 67-68-67-66—268 |
| Cameron Young, $252,500 | 69-61-68-70—268 |
| Keegan Bradley, $162,500 | 65-68-69-67—269 |
| Michael Brennan, $162,500 | 65-67-64-73—269 |
| Doug Ghim, $162,500 | 65-67-70-67—269 |
| Rico Hoey, $162,500 | 66-69-66-68—269 |
| Sungjae Im, $162,500 | 67-69-66-67—269 |
| Chandler Blanchet, $109,500 | 72-65-66-67—270 |
| Ricky Castillo, $109,500 | 66-68-68-68—270 |
| Luke Clanton, $109,500 | 66-67-67-70—270 |
| **Corey Conners, $109,500** | **67-67-69-67—270** |
| Russell Henley, $109,500 | 67-67-67-69—270 |
| Keita Nakajima, $109,500 | 69-67-66-68—270 |
| Jacob Bridgeman, $74,500 | 68-65-70-68—271 |
| Stephan Jaeger, $74,500 | 65-68-69-69—271 |
| Ben Kohles, $74,500 | 70-65-68-68—271 |
| Mac Meissner, $74,500 | 69-68-65-69—271 |
| Kevin Roy, $74,500 | 69-66-67-69—271 |
| Emiliano Grillo, $57,214 | 66-67-69-70—272 |
| Jackson Koivun, $57,214 | 69-67-67-69—272 |
| David Lipsky, $57,214 | 67-67-67-71—272 |
| **Also** | |
| **Nick Taylor, $22,000** | **69-66-71-72—278** |
| **Adam Svensson, $20,500** | **69-68-74-70—281** |

## LPGA TOUR

### AIG WOMEN'S OPEN

**Sunday**
**At Lancashire, United Kingdom**
**Purse:** $10 million
**Yardage:** 6,601; **Par:** 71
**FINAL ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| x-Shiho Kuwaki, $1,500,000 | 66-70-73-70—279 |
| Esther Henseleit, $921,872 | 73-69-67-70—279 |
| Yealimi Noh, $668,050 | 67-70-69-74—280 |
| Nelly Korda, $465,601 | 73-68-73-68—282 |
| Jeeno Thitikul, $465,601 | 64-73-72-73—282 |
| Wei-Ling Hsu, $247,127 | 71-74-69-69—283 |
| Charley Hull, $247,127 | 69-71-71-72—283 |
| Hae-Ran Ryu, $247,127 | 66-69-74-74—283 |
| Rio Takeda, $247,127 | 69-73-72-69—283 |
| Shannon Tan, $247,127 | 69-74-71-69—283 |
| Lottie Woad, $247,127 | 69-71-70-73—283 |
| Celine Boutier, $158,889 | 67-74-74-69—284 |
| Minami Katsu, $158,889 | 72-68-71-73—284 |
| Sara Kouskova, $158,889 | 77-69-71-67—284 |
| Yuka Saso, $158,889 | 72-73-71-68—284 |
| Lauren Coughlin, $126,501 | 69-71-74-71—285 |
| Jin Hee Im, $126,501 | 70-71-72-72—285 |
| Hyo Joo Kim, $126,501 | 75-71-72-67—285 |
| Lucy Li, $126,501 | 72-68-69-76—285 |
| Soo Bin Joo, $109,799 | 70-69-73-74—286 |
| **Also** | |
| **Brooke Henderson, $72,345** | **72-72-72-72—288** |

## ATP/WTA TOURS

### MUBADALA CITI DC OPEN

**At Washington D.C.**
**Sunday**
**Purse:** $2,488,125
**Surface:** Hardcourt outdoor
**MEN'S**
**DOUBLES — CHAMPIONSHIP**
Lloyd Glasspool and Julian Cash (3), Britain, def. Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

### NATIONAL BANK OPEN

**Sunday**
**At Toronto**
**Purse:** $7,433,076
**Surface:** Hardcourt outdoor
**WOMEN'S**
**SINGLES — ROUND OF 128**
Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Venus Williams, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, Spain, def. **Ariana Arseneault, Richmond Hill, Ont.**, 6-2, 6-4.
Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, def. Kimberly Birrell, Australia, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
**Katherine Sebov, Toronto**, def. Aoi Ito, Japan, 6-3, 6-4.
Moyuka Uchijima, Japan, def. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Sara Bejlek, Czechia, def. Wang Xiyu, China, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.
Camila Osorio, Colombia, def. Lucrezia Stefanini, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

## ATP TOUR

### LOS CABOS OPEN

**At Los Cabos, Mexico**
**Saturday**
**MEN'S**
**SINGLES — CHAMPIONSHIP**
Arthur Gea, France, def. **Denis Shapovalov (8), Richmond Hill, Ont.**, 6-3, 6-4.

**DOUBLES — CHAMPIONSHIP**
Ryan Seggerman and Patrik Trhac, United States, def. Finn Reynolds and James Watt, New Zealand, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 10-8.,

## TELEVISION

### MONDAY (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

**BASEBALL**
MLB: Toronto vs. Houston, SN Ontario, East, West, Pacific, 7:30 p.m.

**HOCKEY**
**Hlinka Gretzky Cup:**
United States vs. Czechia, TSN 3, 4, 5, 3 p.m.
Switzerland vs. Canada, TSN 3, 4, 5, 7 p.m.

**TENNIS**
ATP/WTA Tour: National Bank Open, SN Ontario, East, West, Pacific, 11 a.m. SN1, 12:30 p.m. SN1, SN 360, 7 p.m.

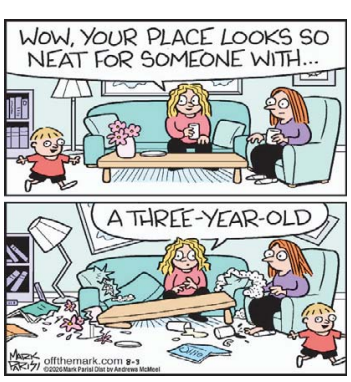
**BASKETBALL**
WNBA: Las Vegas vs. Atlanta, NBA TV Canada, 7 p.m.

RESULTS AS OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 9:35 P.M.

### CORNERED

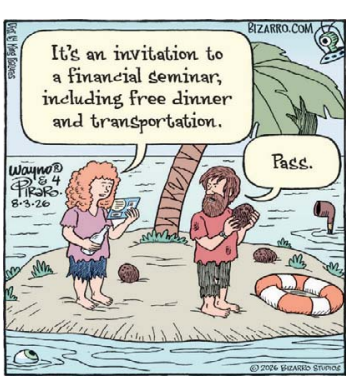
"Thanks for coming in. I'll be in touch as soon as we lower our expectations."

### OFF THE MARK




### SPEED BUMP

### BIZARRO



# Canada closes Commonwealth Games with a pair of medals in judo

With 62 medals overall – 19 gold, 20 silver and 23 bronze – Canada placed third in the medal table behind Australia and England

**Canadian cyclist Maggie Coles-Lyster poses on the podium after winning the bronze medal in the women's elimination race at the 2026 Commonwealth Games at Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome on Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland.** QUINN ROONEY/GETTY IMAGES

Kyle Reyes and Coralie Godbout added a pair of judo medals to Canada's tally as competition wrapped up Sunday at the Commonwealth Games.

Reyes captured gold in the men's 100-kilogram division, defeating England's Max Gregory 1-0 by ippon in the final.

The 32-year-old from Toronto moved one step up the podium after winning silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. He returned to competition in June after undergoing back surgery.

"I think Kyle was in a league of his own today," coach Antoine Bouchard said. "He was never in any real danger, and he remained completely in control. He had a perfect day.

"Today, we saw the old Kyle again. He was sensational."

Godbout, a 25-year-old from Lévis, Que., needed extra time to defeat India's Ishroop Narang 1-0 and claim bronze in the women's 78-kilogram division.

Canada finished with seven judo medals at the Games, including four gold.

"We truly believed all our athletes had a shot at the podium. We ended up with seven medals out of nine possible ones, and the two athletes who didn't win medals made it to the bronze-medal finals, so we really couldn't have asked for much more," Bouchard said.

"For the athletes who hope to qualify for the 2028 Olympics, these Games have been an important milestone, especially for the younger ones who had no prior experience at multisport events. They performed some great judo."

In track cycling, Maggie Coles-Lyster of Maple Ridge, B.C., earned bronze in the women's elimination race, with Australia's Alyssa Polites and Georgia Baker finishing first and second.

Coles-Lyster won her second career Commonwealth medal after taking bronze in the women's scratch race at the 2022 Games.

The 27-year-old said she was "really happy" to reach the podium after undergoing career-threatening iliac artery surgery last year.

"I had a career-changing surgery last year, so this has been my comeback year, and it's also been my best season ever," Coles-Lyster said in a press release. "Coming into these Games I thought, 'Don't leave without a medal,' so today was my last chance to make that happen and I'm really happy I did.

"To get the job done in the elimination today, my favourite event, was a great feeling and a big sigh of relief."

The three-medal day helped Canada finish with 62 medals overall – 19 gold, 20 silver and 23 bronze – across 10 days of competition. Canada placed third in the medal table behind Australia and England.

Quebec City's Julien Frascadore capped the Games by carrying Canada's flag into the closing ceremony at the Hydro arena. Frascadore won judo gold in the men's 66-kilogram division on Friday.

"Being named Team Canada's closing ceremony flag bearer is an incredible honour and something I will cherish forever," Frascadore said.

"Winning a gold medal was a dream come true, but what I'll remember most about these Games is being part of this team. The support we've shared as teammates, within judo and across Team Canada, has been unlike anything I've experienced."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Tigers face a difficult challenge after trading Skubal to the Dodgers

**JOSH DUBOW**
WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

The Detroit Tigers said their goodbyes to ace Tarik Skubal and now must turn their focus to an uncertain final two months of the season as they try to make a playoff push without their best player.

The Tigers traded the two-time reigning AL Cy Young Award winner to the Los Angeles Dodgers for three minor league prospects in a deal that was agreed to late Saturday night.

"Baseball has a funny way of challenging you to deal with change," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said before the series finale against the Athletics on Sunday. "Sometimes that's difficult, sometimes it's part of the game and part of the business. These guys are callous to some of the emotions that come with it."

Moving on without Skubal is the ultimate challenge. The ninth-round draft pick in 2018 developed into one of the best pitchers in baseball, winning the Cy Young in 2024 and '25 and posting a 2.40 ERA over the past three seasons.

Skubal is 7-5 this season with a 2.79 ERA and 116 strikeouts in 96⅔ innings and had a major impact in the clubhouse. But with him set to become a free agent after the season, the Tigers opted to trade him for minor league right-handers River Ryan and Brady Smith and outfielder Zyhir Hope.

Hinch said it was important for the players to appreciate what Skubal gave the team while still understanding the task ahead.

"He wasn't going to pitch today. So we have to be sort of cold about we got to move on and go play today's game that he wasn't going to impact despite the loss of his presence in our clubhouse," Hinch said.

"We have a ton of respect for what he brought every day, his preparation, his attitude, his desire to win. That impact doesn't leave with him as he gets on a plane to go to a different team. The day-to-day does, and we're going to have to find a way to overcome it."

News of the trade broke during Detroit's 8-6 win over the A's on Saturday night with many players first hearing about it from fans near the dugout during the game. Skubal was back in the clubhouse beyond the centre-field fence at the minor league stadium where the A's play when he got the news, making it impossible for the players to get the news directly from him until after the game.

> "Over the last couple of years, we don't get anywhere near to what we've done without Tarik Skubal. I hope our fan base is appreciative of that, even if it maybe didn't end the way that everyone wanted it to."
>
> **CASEY MIZE**
> TIGERS PITCHER

But they managed to focus on the game and come up with the win.

"The team's handled it really well," first baseman Spencer Torkelson said. "Leading up to the trade, I thought we blocked out the noise amazing. Even in the sixth inning when everyone's screaming at us from the stands that we traded our best pitcher, I think we kept our focus and kept the main thing the main thing. I think as a team we still believe in ourselves and we know that we're definitely not out of it."

The trade came at an uncertain time for the Tigers, who have overcome a slow start to the season to move with 2½ games of the final wild-card spot after winning the first two games of this series.

Prized prospect Max Clark was called up from the minors on Friday and has delivered five hits, two doubles, a homer and three RBIs in two games. But the team also scratched Casey Mize from his scheduled start this weekend in case he gets traded before the deadline Monday.

"It's a weird, weird place," Mize said. "We've played really good baseball the last couple days. We trade our best player. It says we're 2½ back, but obviously there's a lot of teams still to overpass, so it's certainly a strange spot."

The task now will be to try to get back to the playoffs without Skubal after they lost in Game 5 of the division series the past two seasons. Skubal started both of those losses. He had a rough start and took the loss in 2024 against Cleveland. He had a strong start last season with 13 strikeouts in six innings against Seattle but the bullpen squandered a 2-1 lead and the Tigers went on to lose 3-2 in 15 innings.

Skubal said Saturday night after the trade that it hurt that he couldn't help deliver Detroit its first World Series title since 1984.

"Over the last couple of years, we don't get anywhere near to what we've done without Tarik Skubal," Mize said. "I hope our fan base is appreciative of that, even if it maybe didn't end the way that everyone wanted it to."

The Tigers fans might get a chance to see Skubal again later this month when the Dodgers visit Detroit Aug. 28-30.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **Kelly:** FIFA's only plan is to keep the bulldozer plowing forward

FROM B10

If two European powerhouses – France and England, for instance – said, 'You know what? We don't want to be in business with these people any more. We're happy playing in the European championships. It's a better tournament than the World Cup anyway. If the rest of you figure out some other way to do a world championship, minus FIFA, let us know. But that's on you, and we're out.'

No negotiations. Just go. That would sink FIFA. But no. They cannot remove their lips from FIFA's money spigot. This is the crux of it.

Infantino may be dodging fire, but FIFA hasn't been cowed. One FIFA executive called the idea to sell the World Cup's commercial rights "the project of one person." Okay. Sure.

In the midst of this mess, FIFA announced an intention to expand the next World Cup to 64 teams. That would have seemed like a major deal, but now seems like a minor concession. Could that have been the real goal?

Via Infantino, FIFA has taken a lesson from its American benefactors: losers make plans; winners bulldoze. Nowadays, it doesn't matter what the plan is. You don't even need a plan. What matters is relentless forward pressure.

You need only hold one idea in your mind – that your opponents are weak. Made too fat by recent history, too complacent, too easily bought, they lack the steel to make a hard choice. So you push until they collapse. There may be some setbacks along the way. But in the end, you'll get most of what you want.

That's how this will turn out. The ground is already being laid. Over the weekend, the Financial Times proclaimed that the problem with Infantino's plan to sell the World Cup wasn't the sale itself. It was the valuation. He'd proposed asking for too little. Don't think that won't put some antennae up around the football world.

Whether it's Infantino in charge or not, FIFA will get some part of what it wanted a week ago. There will still be a World Cup. Europe and the rest will be there. They'll make a great show of being for the right thing, but they'll go.

That's how all these stories – and I assume you're getting that I'm no longer taking about sports – will continue to end.

They will do so until someone who has something to lose decides to stand on principle, and accept the material consequences of whatever that entails. Not because it's the smart business decision, but because it's right.

## **Jays:** Toronto adds Canadian pitcher Taillon from Cubs

FROM B10

Toronto only got one hit in the first six frames off left-hander Matthew Liberatore, who at one point retired 13 batters in a row. The home side had just five hits overall with its only run plated by a double by Urias in the eighth.

The loss prevented the Blue Jays from tying a season-high mark of four straight victories.

Gausman was excellent on Saturday as he earned his fifth win. He has pitched better than his record indicates; often he has suffered from a lack of run support.

Scherzer has been erratic all season and came into Sunday with a 9.49 earned run average but performed some of the magic that has allowed him to win 222 games in the big leagues.

"I thought he was great today," Schneider said. "He threw the ball really well and was very efficient. It was a great job by him."

Toronto made one move during the game when it acquired right-handed pitcher Jameson Taillon from the Chicago Cubs for cash and future considerations.

The 34-year-old has posted a 5.92 ERA over 15 starts this season but has won as many as 14 games twice in his career. Born in Florida to Canadian parents, he pitched for Canada at this year's World Baseball Classic.

"I thought all of my pitches were very good today," Scherzer said, adding that it was only the second time he has been healthy in back-to-back appearances. "My belief in myself hasn't quit. That is why I am still out there grinding."

He acknowledged the Blue Jays have been subpar.

"We are in this position because we have not performed up to our ability," he said. "It is on us as players because we haven't done a good job."

# Zverev laments Sinner, Djokovic withdrawals at National Bank Open

World's second-ranked player not fond of new, longer Masters tournaments

**ALEXIS BÉLANGER-CHAMPAGNE**
MONTREAL

**Alexander Zverev serves against Jannik Sinner during their men's singles final at Wimbledon in London on July 12. Zverev has faced Sinner five times this season, losing on each occasion.** CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

Alexander Zverev has faced Jannik Sinner five times in the semi-finals or finals of tournaments this season, losing on each occasion.

Despite that, the German star wishes the world No. 1 hadn't withdrawn from the National Bank Open.

"I think you want to be competing against the best, especially before the U.S. Open," Zverev said at a news conference Sunday at IGA Stadium. "I understand it, though. I mean, we had a thought also of maybe skipping Montreal this year, but then we decided to play it.

"Of course, it's not a positive that I keep losing to the same guy, or I have lost to the same guy multiple times, but I think it definitely shows that we were probably the two most stable players on tour this year, and that's a positive."

Zverev, ranked No. 2 in the world and the top seed in Montreal, notably lost to Sinner in the Madrid final and most recently at Wimbledon.

The 29-year-old said he quickly moved past the defeat to Sinner at the grass-court Grand Slam, although he would have liked to extend the match by forcing a deciding set.

Zverev also realized after his French Open triumph in June that winning his first Grand Slam title did not really change his life.

"It's a satisfaction, for sure. I mean, I've waited for that Grand Slam title a very long time, in a way, and, of course, I'm very happy that it came," he said. "But the work continues since we have three Masters tournaments here in North America, and that's what the focus is on."

Zverev said it was important for him to play a lot of matches to feel comfortable on court. As a result, he took only one week off after Wimbledon before returning to training.

He added, however, that every player has their own approach, and he understands why Sinner and veteran Novak Djokovic decided to skip the Montreal tournament.

Zverev also did not appear particularly interested in discussing ways to encourage all players to participate in Masters 1000 events.

"Honestly, if everything goes back to the old [way] and we would play one-week Masters events, yeah, we can talk about it," he said. "But if you're forcing us to be away for two and a half, three weeks during Grand Slams and the same then goes for Masters events, you can't force us to play. Sorry, that's nonsense.

"At the end of the day, if you play all nine Masters, you get a bonus at the end of the year. So there is that to it as well.

"You think Novak will care if he gets a bigger bonus?" he added. "I think the guy has – I mean, if I would have to guess, the guy is north of 400-million in his bank account, and so I'm not sure he would care."

Zverev is therefore not a big fan of 12-day Masters events, a format the National Bank Open adopted last year.

"I used to play more 500 events, 250 events when the Masters were shorter," he said.

Still, Zverev hopes the Montreal tournament, which he won in 2017, will serve as a springboard for his hard-court season.

"I don't think maybe I'll play my best tennis here," he said. "But the result of me playing here, I think I'll play better in Cincinnati and then hopefully my best tennis in New York."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Sabalenka ready for hard-court return in Toronto

**JOSHUA CLIPPERTON** TORONTO

**After having been off for almost a month, world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka headlines a star-studded field at the National Bank Open in Toronto.** ANDREW COULDRIDGE/REUTERS

Aryna Sabalenka desperately needed a break.

The WTA's top-ranked player had just been bounced from Wimbledon in the fourth round – her earliest Grand Slam exit since 2022 – on the heels of a stunning quarter-final loss at the French Open a month prior.

"I want to get completely drunk, forget about tennis," Sabalenka told reporters July 5 in London after falling to Naomi Osaka in straight sets at the All England Club.

"And try to get better."

Following some time away from the game, her journey starts anew at the National Bank Open.

Sabalenka headlines a star-studded field at Canada's annual showcase with the aim of turning things around on North America's hard courts coming off a challenging stretch on Europe's grass and clay.

"I was trying a couple things," the 28-year-old from Belarus said Sunday at Sobeys Stadium. "Didn't go the way that I expected, and now we're kind of back to basics, and I really hope it's going to work out well."

Sabalenka will have been off almost a month – including some down time in Greece – when she's scheduled to open her tournament Tuesday night.

"The rest was much-needed," said the four-time Grand Slam winner. "I suffered during the summer swing a lot with my body [and] mentally also a little bit."

Her hunger returned after about a week of decompression.

"I felt much better," Sabalenka added. "I couldn't wait to get back on court and start working toward my goals."

Some of the names joining her at the US$7.4-million WTA 1000 event are world No. 2 Elena Rybakina, who beat Sabalenka to claim this year's Australian Open, two-time NBO champion Jessica Pegula, two-time Grand Slam winner Coco Gauff, and 2026 French Open titleholder Mirra Andreeva.

Leylah Fernandez of Laval, Que., is the only seeded Canadian at No. 30.

The WTA's top-ranked player since October, 2024, Sabalenka skipped last year's Canadian stop in Montreal due to fatigue after winning the French Open and making Wimbledon's semi-finals.

While most of the top women's talent available is in Toronto, the men's bracket saw a trend of late, high-profile withdrawals continue after world No. 1 Jannik Sinner and No. 5 Novak Djokovic pulled the plug on their participation.

The NBO represents the start of a hectic run-up to the U.S. Open that also features the Cincinnati Open, which begins before the final matches in both Toronto and Montreal, where the men are competing in 2026.

Sabalenka said it's a lot of tennis in a short period, especially when shifting to the hard courts.

"Very tricky scheduling lots of [longer] tournaments," she said. "If you go far at the grass [events], you don't have much time to reset, recharge, and go back on court to practise and then play the tournament … skipping the vacation time, which is really needed after that big part of the season."

Sabalenka added a packed schedule and changing surfaces means players have to make difficult decisions.

"If you go far in the grass court [season], you feel really fatigued and you're not able to pull out any good tennis," she said. "What's the reason of coming when your body is really under so much stress? Not enough time for recovery, you force your body too much, and then it can cause you an injury."

After a sub-par showing on grass and clay, however, Sabalenka's path was straightforward.

"This year I didn't do well," she said with a laugh. "So I'm here."

Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova reflected on a wild month after she defeated Karolina Muchova in an all-Czechia final.

"The last couple of weeks have been nothing more but crazy and chaos," said the 21-year-old ranked No. 7 in the world. "I'm glad I can start over. It's a new week, new tournament, new surface. It's all the changes at the same time.

"I'll have to get used to it as fast as possible."

Andreeva, who won her first Grand Slam at the French Open, will debut in Toronto coming off a 2025 third-round loss in Montreal.

"One of the dreams that I was able to accomplish," said the 19-year-old Russian. "I'm happy it happened, but now I also have to focus on the future."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Infantino's position as FIFA president looks untenable, head of European league says

ZURICH

Gianni Infantino's position as FIFA president looks untenable following his failed plan to sell a stake in the World Cup's commercial rights, the head of Europe's professional football leagues said on Sunday.

Claudius Schaefer, whose organization represents 53 professional men's and women's football leagues, said there could be "only one consequence" for Infantino after his plan triggered a storm of protest from regional associations.

"When I saw how this whole thing unfolded and that FIFA's key bodies weren't involved, then there's essentially only one consequence in any company or association," Schaefer told Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung.

Asked if this meant that Infantino was now unacceptable as FIFA president, Schaefer said: "This is usually the consequence when someone in a company pushes such a business deal forward without anyone knowing about it."

Infantino said on Friday that FIFA had scrapped the plan after a widespread backlash.

Regional confederations UEFA and CONCACAF said on Saturday they had lost confidence in his leadership.

Schaefer, also chief executive of the Swiss Football League, said the proposal suggested that FIFA's main goal was to maximize profits for third parties by having more and bigger competitions in future.

"It's solely about the financial advantages; everything else is completely ignored," he said.

The European Leagues opposed this because it would add more matches to an already packed international calendar to the detriment of national championships, Schaefer said.

"Nobody knew about the plans, not even the FIFA Council, the governing body of FIFA. I was very surprised that the president was acting completely alone in this matter."

REUTERS

# Venus Williams flames out vs. Rakhimova in first round at NBO

**JOSHUA CLIPPERTON** TORONTO

Venus Williams sat through a weather delay as rain pelted centre court.

The seven-time Grand Slam winner then battled hard early before bowing out late after the skies finally cleared.

Kamilla Rakhimova defeated Williams 6-4, 6-1 to kick off the National Bank Open women's main draw Sunday at Sobeys Stadium.

Granted a singles wild-card entry at the WTA 1000 event, the 46-year-old tennis icon has now lost 12 straight matches dating back to July, 2025.

Williams did not speak with reporters following her latest setback that included a wait of close to two hours from the original 12:30 p.m. ET start, but conducted a brief interview with a member of the tour's communications department.

"We play outside … you can't control the weather," said the four-time Olympic gold medalist. "But the fans were amazing. They were with me right in every point – that was fantastic.

"I was just fighting to put the ball on the court," she added. "I had some chances."

Rakhimova fought off a break point down 4-3 in the first set and then broke Williams to go up 5-4 before the 24-year-old from Uzbekistan held serve.

Ranked No. 82 in the world, she broke Williams again to open the second set and secured two more breaks in coasting to victory in one hour 27 minutes in the players' first-ever meeting.

"Playing Venus is not an everyday experience," Rakhimova said. "I'm very glad to actually get a chance to play against her. I was looking forward to that match. I knew it was gonna be a centre-court match. I was trying to enjoy my time on it, no matter what the result is.

"And I think I did pretty well."

Making her 13th appearance in Canada, the 664th-ranked Williams put up her best showing at the country's annual showcase in 2014 when she defeated younger sister Serena to reach the final.

"Determination and just fighting," she said of the takeaways from Sunday's performance. "It was really fun to be back after having not been here for a while."

Heavy rain pelted the venue on the York University campus in Toronto earlier Sunday, pushing a scheduled late-morning start into the afternoon.

Fellow wild card Bianca Andreescu of Mississauga, Ont., who became the first Canadian in 50 years to win the tournament in 2019, was slated to meet Czechia's Nikola Bartunkova in evening play.

Toronto's Katherine Sebov topped Japanese qualifier Aoi Ito 6-3, 6-4, while Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro picked up a 6-2, 6-4 win over Ariana Arsenault of Richmond Hill, Ont. Cadence Brace of Oakville, Ont., faced McCartney Kessler of the U.S. later Sunday.

Leylah Fernandez of Laval, Que., is the top-seeded Canadian at No. 30. Her tournament is set to begin Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Rallies surround Fever-Lynx game

## Cunningham says her stance on transgender athletes and the reaction it has created won't be a distraction for her team

MINNEAPOLIS

**A demonstrator protests prior to the start of the WNBA game between the Indiana Fever and Minnesota Lynx at Target Center on Sunday in Minneapolis.** DAVID BERDING/GETTY IMAGES

A crowd of critics and supporters of Indiana guard Sophie Cunningham's stance on transgender participation in women's sports gathered around and inside Target Center on Sunday as the Fever faced the Lynx in Minnesota.

Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve wore a light blue shirt under her jacket that said, "Trans kids belong" as she directed her team – the top team in the WNBA – to a 108-100 win over the Fever. There were fans in the stands wearing T-shirts that read, "Trans kids belong in sports."

It's the third straight Fever game that drew a rally after Cunningham recently voiced support for barring transgender girls and women from girls' and women's sports in an ESPN article published last week. Before the contest, Cunningham and Reeve held a conversation at midcourt. Reeve didn't want to share the exact nature of their talk.

"Both of us understand that we have platforms and we both talked about wanting to, more than anything, educate," Reeve said. "There are some things that we have in common, and maybe some things you differ on, just like any issues. I think it's how you handle things. It was nice to be in person, for sure."

Cunningham was booed by the crowd on her first touch of the game and throughout.

Outside the arena, dozens of fans gathered near the entrance. A person using a loud speaker repeated over and over, "Protect trans women." There were signs held up that read, "Love is truth" and "Thank you Sophie."

Asked how she and the team are navigating the outside conversations, Caitlin Clark said after the game, "I think we're excellent.

"I think it's for leagues and governing bodies to work with their athletes to find solutions," Clark said. "Our focus is on basketball. That's what we talk about and how we can get wins and obviously we didn't do that tonight. So we need to find an area to improve in that way."

Any reaction?

"I just answered," Clark said.

Cunningham said Friday in Portland that she wasn't concerned about rallies against transgender participation in women's sports becoming a distraction for the Fever.

"I think everyone who knows me personally, they know that I'm full of love. I'm bubbly. I love the people around me," Cunningham said Friday. "I love basketball. I love inspiring the next generation and doing that in a positive light. And so that doesn't even cross my mind. Doesn't cross my teammates' minds."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Sparks trade Plum to Mercury for Akoa Makani, draft picks

**DOUG FEINBERG**

The Los Angeles Sparks traded all-star guard Kelsey Plum to the Phoenix Mercury for a first-round pick next year, Monique Akoa Makani and a second-round draft choice in 2028.

The deal was finalized late Saturday night ahead of Sunday's trade deadline and was first reported by ESPN. It's rare for an all-star to be traded in the middle of the season, only happening a handful of times before Saturday night.

"Kelsey is one of the league's most dynamic players," Mercury GM Nick U'Ren said.

"She is a fierce competitor with a winning mentality who impacts the game on both ends of the floor. Her combination of shooting, explosiveness and decision-making allows her to create offence at a high level and makes her one of the league's most complete guards. We have wanted Kelsey here for a long time, and we're excited to finally bring her to Phoenix as we continue to build on our foundation."

Plum will wear No. 0 for the Mercury. She is a free agent at the end of this season and has been sidelined since June 21 because of a lower leg injury. She practised earlier this week and was expected to play Sunday in the Sparks' game against Portland before getting traded. Phoenix's next game is Monday at Chicago.

Plum was averaging a career-best 23.9 points and 6.4 assists before getting hurt. Los Angeles has struggled without her, including its last six games.

Phoenix is currently 11-19 and six games behind the New York Liberty, who sit in eighth place. New York edged Phoenix 94-92 on Saturday.

The Mercury are coming off a WNBA finals appearance last season, but have seldom looked like that team despite returning stars Alyssa Thomas and Kahleah Copper.

Akoa Makani is averaging 9.4 points and 2.5 assists this season in 16 games. She was injured earlier in the season with a hamstring issue.

Los Angeles acquired Plum before last season in a blockbuster deal that sent the No. 2 pick to Seattle. The Sparks had hoped they could accelerate a rebuilding effort. Seattle used that pick on Dominique Malonga, who was an all-star this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Wiebes wins second stage of Tour de France Femmes

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

**Netherlands cyclist Lorena Wiebes celebrates crossing the finish line to win the second stage of the Tour de France Femmes on Sunday. The 149-kilometre stage went from Aigle to Geneva, Switerland.** JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT/KEYSTONE VIA AP

Dutch rider Lorena Wiebes repeated her opening-stage success with a sprint win on Stage 2 of the Tour de France Femmes in Geneva on Sunday and extended her overall lead.

Wiebes (Team SD Worx-Protime) was first to attack from the bunch coming to the end of the 147.9-kilometre ride from Aigle, and the 27-year-old easily held off her rivals with time to raise her arms in celebration before the line.

"I knew that it was up to me to find my own way," said Wiebes, whose seventh Tour de France stage win was her first while wearing the yellow jersey.

"I found some good wheels and I could come out I think around 200 metres to go and then I just could launch my sprint."

Italian Elisa Balsamo (Lidl-Trek) came in second ahead of 39-year-old Marianne Vos of the Netherlands.

Wiebes earned a 10-second time bonus for the stage win and now holds a 14-second lead over Kimberley Le Court of Mauritius, with 2023 winner Demi Vollering a further two seconds back in third.

The stage got its anticipated sprint finish but Riejanne Markus made a brave bid for solo success only to get reeled in with less than 500 metres left, and last year's points classification winner Wiebes was always favourite to triumph at that stage.

The peloton was about to catch an earlier breakaway with 40-kilometres remaining when Markus stole a march on the bunch and managed to get one minute ahead but the Dutchwoman's efforts came to nothing.

"Winning in yellow makes it for sure special but also because, again, our team worked really hard for it," Wiebes said.

"The girls were chasing full, full gas in the final to bring back Riejanne Markus, so it's even more beautiful to finish it off in the yellow."

Monday's stage three is a 156.5-kilometre ride from Geneva to Poligny in France.

REUTERS

# Mets trade pitcher Peralta to Rays for trio of minor leaguers

**MIKE FITZPATRICK** NEW YORK

The first-place Tampa Bay Rays gave their starting rotation a boost Sunday, acquiring pitcher Freddy Peralta from the struggling New York Mets for three minor leaguers.

Peralta, a two-time all-star who can become a free agent this fall, has been a disappointment for the Mets after they acquired him from Milwaukee in a January trade.

"He gave us everything that he had, stepped out on the mound every single day and competed," interim Mets manager Andy Green said. "I know he wanted better results. And I think when we struck the deal to get him, we were all hoping for a different set of circumstances on this day than what we're looking at."

Green said Peralta was informed of the trade during the early innings of a 2-0 loss to the Miami Marlins that dropped the Mets to 47-66 – their worst record through 113 games since 2003, the last time New York finished last in the NL East.

But Peralta could help a strong pitching staff with the Rays, who began the day with the best record in the American League at 65-45 and a 3½-game lead in the AL East over the New York Yankees.

"Freddy is a proven major league starter with high-stakes experience and a strong track record," Rays president of baseball operations Erik Neander said in a statement. "Adding a pitcher and competitor of his calibre strengthens our team as we push forward."

The last-place Mets received outfielder Aidan Smith, infielder Émilien Pitre and right-hander Gary Gill Hill in exchange for Peralta. Pitre was a second-round pick of Tampa Bay in the 2024 draft while Hill was a sixth-round pick in 2022. Smith was picked in the fourth round of the 2023 draft by the Seattle Mariners, who sent him the Rays in the Randy Arozarena trade in July, 2024.

The move came a day before baseball's trade deadline at 6 p.m. EDT on Monday, and hours after the Los Angeles Dodgers landed the biggest prize on the market, ace pitcher Tarik Skubal, in a deal with the Detroit Tigers.

Before joining the Mets last offseason, Peralta went 17-6 with a 2.70 ERA over 33 starts in 2025. He led the National League in wins, finished fifth in Cy Young award voting and helped the Brewers win their third straight NL Central crown.

With the Rays, the 30-year-old right-hander joins a rotation headed by all-stars Drew Rasmussen and Nick Martinez. Left-hander Shane McClanahan, an all-star in 2022 and 2023, is 9-6 with a 3.09 ERA in 20 starts but was placed on the 15-day injured list Friday with midback tightness on his left side.

Last winter, New York sent youngsters Brandon Sproat and Jett Williams to the Brewers for Peralta and right-hander Tobias Myers, giving up a pair of players rated among the game's top 100 prospects in the anticipation Peralta would be the front line starter the team needed.

Instead, he went 5-9 with a 4.99 ERA in 22 starts and failed to complete five innings in four of his last five outings for the Mets.

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## GLEN HANSARD

MUSICIAN, 56

# FRONTMAN OF IRISH BAND THE FRAMES FOUND INTERNATIONAL FAME AS AN ACTOR

After dropping out of school to busk and play in bands, he formed the Frames in 1990 and had multiple hit albums in Ireland before starring in Once, the film that earned him and co-star Marketa Irglova an Oscar for Best Original Song

ALEX MARSHALL
ISABELLA KWAI

Irish singer Glen Hansard performs at The Caverns in Pelham, Tenn., in March, 2019. Mr. Hansard leaned into being a solo artist in the years after Once, releasing albums including 2015's Didn't He Ramble, which was nominated for a Grammy Award. RON HARRIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glen Hansard, the Oscar-winning singer songwriter who was best known as the frontman of the popular Irish band the Frames, died Wednesday in a motorcycle crash in Dublin. He was 56.

Mr. Hansard's representative, ATC Management, confirmed the songwriter's death on his website.

Micheál Martin, Ireland's prime minister, known in the country as the taoiseach, wrote on social media: "Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Glen Hansard. A talented musician and actor who made a significant contribution to Ireland's cultural landscape over many years."

Irish police issued a news release Wednesday appealing for witnesses to the crash in the Lucan area of West Dublin. The crash occurred shortly before 4:30 a.m., the news release said. It did not name Mr. Hansard but said that "the motorcyclist, a man in his 50s, was treated at the scene but was pronounced deceased a short time later." On Wednesday, the Irish news media reported that Mr. Hansard was the victim.

Mr. Hansard, who began performing as a busker on the streets of Dublin, formed the Frames in 1990, and the band went on to have multiple hit albums in Ireland. He came to more international fame after starring in *Once*, a movie about an Irish street musician and the woman he falls for. He and his co-star, Marketa Irglova, won a 2008 Academy Award for Best Original Song for *Falling Slowly*, which is featured in the film.

Soon, *Once* became a Broadway show that won multiple Tony Awards.

A.O. Scott, in a review of *Once* for The New York Times, said it was a simple film about a busker (Mr. Hansard) who meets a Czech pianist (Ms. Irglova) while out on the streets, and the two then become collaborators and potential lovers. "You can't take your eyes off them," Mr. Scott said, describing the movie as "almost perfect."

Mr. Hansard previously had a small role in *The Commitments*, and said in a 2007 interview with the Times that he had been reluctant to act again. "I'm a real believer in sticking to your craft," he said. He eventually accepted on the stipulation that he could flee if the first few days of filming didn't work out, he said.

Glen Hansard was born on April 21, 1970, in Dublin and grew up in a working-class household. His father, a heavy drinker, was prone to bouts of violence, the singer said in a 2012 interview with the Times. "My dad was quiet, angry, shut down," he said, "so my thing is: I express everything that's there. I want to get it all out."

When an uncle left a guitar behind after being sent to prison, Mr. Hansard picked up the instrument. "I was kind of in a funny spot. I was getting into trouble," he said in a recent podcast interview, recalling his journey to learning guitar. He soon fell in love with the music of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Van Morrison.

He dropped out of school to busk and play in bands. By 1990, he had formed what would be his own long-time rock band, the Frames.

He started acting when he won a role in *The Commitments*, the 1991 film about a group of working-class Irish young people who form a 10-piece soul band. Mr. Hansard said in the podcast interview that he had tagged along with a friend who was auditioning for a role in the film.

"I fit the bill. I had red hair and I played the guitar," he said of his character, Outspan Foster. "I read a couple of lines, and I got the part."

The film was positively received, with the Times calling the cast "a group of talented newcomers."

Then came an even bigger breakout: *Once*, the 2007 Irish film that catapulted Mr. Hansard into international stardom. The wistful film, written and directed by John Carney, one of Mr. Hansard's former bandmates, was filmed in 17 days on a modest budget. It became a hit at the Sundance Film Festival and went on to inspire a Tony Award-winning musical of the same name.

Mr. Hansard, who initially resisted the idea of turning *Once* into a musical, eventually gave the production his blessing. "Forget about being correct," he recalled telling Steve Kazee, the actor who played his role in the Broadway production. "The muse hates correct."

He leaned into being a solo artist in the years after *Once*, releasing albums including 2015's *Didn't He Ramble*, which was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Mr. Hansard was also an activist, campaigning for awareness of homelessness and protesting over housing shortages. He performed often in an annual Christmas Eve Busk event in Dublin, an event that raises money to help people at risk of homelessness.

The singer had been scheduled to play European tour dates in the coming months to perform music from two albums released this year. He leaves his wife, Maire Saaritsa; three brothers; and a son, Christy.

As well as the Frames, Mr. Hansard played with the Swell Season, a folk duo he formed with Ms. Irglova, his *Once* co-star and onetime partner.

Mr. Hansard said in the 2012 Times interview that he always found himself singing "within the vernacular of the love song," but that his music wasn't simply about romance.

"It's also the relationship between me and my country, me and my friends, me and myself, me and my God," he said. "It's not always about me and my girl. That's just the language I've gotten used to using."

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## BETYE SAAR

ARTIST, 99

# Central figure in Black Art Movement reclaimed problematic totems

COREY WILLIAMS

Betye Saar pioneered assemblage boxes, or sculptures made of found objects. One of her most important works is The Liberation of Aunt Jemima, created in 1972. It features memorabilia she collected that denigrated Black people. DAVID SPRAGUE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Artist Betye Saar, whose work reflects Black identity, culture and spirituality, died Sunday morning in Los Angeles at 99.

Ms. Saar's death was confirmed Monday by relatives. She would have turned 100 this week.

A central figure of the 1960s Black Art Movement, Ms. Saar pioneered assemblage boxes, or sculptures made of found objects, and reclaimed Jim Crow-era memorabilia as powerful totems of Black liberation.

"Her symbolically rich body of work has evolved over time to demonstrate the environmental, cultural, political, racial, technological, economic and historical context in which it exists," according to Roberts Projects, the Los Angeles gallery that represents her.

Ms. Saar began her career in design and shifted to art at the age of 35. She continued to make art into her 90s. She grew up in Pasadena, Calif., and was part of a community of Black artists in nearby Altadena; she often cited Simon Rodia's *Watts Towers* as an early source of inspiration.

Ms. Saar's practice incorporated painting, printmaking, sculpture and found objects including dolls, washboards and other antiques. Boats, clocks, cages and altars recur in her practice, as well as symbols of the occult and cosmology. She often referenced her astrological sign of Leo in the form of lions, punctuating many works.

"Her appropriation of Black collectibles, heirlooms and utilitarian objects are transformed through subversion," the gallery said. "Among the older generation of Black American artists, Saar is without reproach."

Made in 1969, *Black Girl's Window*, was groundbreaking. Still, it wasn't widely celebrated until decades later, and it was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2019. "There weren't that many galleries in Los Angeles at the time and there certainly weren't any for Black artists," she once said in an interview.

*The Liberation of Aunt Jemima*, created in 1972, is one of her most important works. It features memorabilia she collected that denigrated Black people, included a "mammy," or 19th-century minstrel character who smiled while serving white slave owners.

In Ms. Saar's hands though, the figure is reclaimed: She smiles, but holds a rifle and has a hand grenade.

It came in response to the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn. Ms. Saar said Rev. King's death "triggered a rage within me, and the mystic transformed into the warrior."

"I had a lot of hesitation about using powerful, negative images such as these – thinking about how white people saw Black people, and how that influenced the ways in which Black people saw each other," Ms. Saar said. "What saved it was that I made Aunt Jemima into a revolutionary figure."

After more than 130 years, Quaker Oats announced it would retire its Aunt Jemima brand in 2020, acknowledging the logo and its origins were "based on a racial stereotype."

Ms. Saar taught and mentored generations of Black artists, including painter Kerry James Marshall.

Though Ms. Saar's work was exhibited in a 1975 solo show at the Whitney Museum of American Art, in the decades that followed large institutions have exhibited her work only sporadically. In 2019 though, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and MoMA mounted concurrent solo shows.

In spring 2026, Ms. Saar was inducted to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

"She had boundless energy for making art. I think she had a lot to say and was tired of the art world being dominated by white males," said Angela Robinson Witherspoon, who produced and directed a documentary in 2023 on Ms. Saar's life. *Betye Saar: Ready to Be A Warrior* features interviews with John Legend, Tina Knowles and other prominent voices.

"She was raising her three young daughters and she wanted to be part of the Civil Rights Movement," Ms. Robinson Witherspoon said.

Let's Get It On: The Wearable Art of Betye Saar, which focuses on costume design, is currently on view at Robert Projects in Los Angeles, and there are 26 of an eventual 100 dolls on view at the New-York Historical Society in Manhattan.

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